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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Committee Formed To Address Servicemen Issues *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Jul 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Grachev Wants CIS Reinforcements in Tajikistan *[Russian TV]* 3
Security Ministry To Use Force *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Security Ministry Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Rutskoy Calls on Tajikistan To Normalize Situation *[Moscow Radio]* 3
Chernomyrdin Continues Visit to Germany 3
Highlights Pipeline Project *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Deems Bonn Talks 'Extremely Important' *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Meets With German Premier *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Addresses Businessmen in Cologne *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Arrives in Berlin *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Discusses Cooperation With GDR *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Intelligence Service Rejects German Media 'Disinformation' *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
'Compromise' Needed in Talks on Indian Rocket Engine Deal *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jul]* 6
Commentary on Deal *[SEGODNYA 16 Jul]* 6
'Space Triangle' Viewed *[SEGODNYA 16 Jul]* 7
Officials View U.S. 'Immigration Privileges' *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jul]* 7
U.S.-DPRK Talks in Switzerland Viewed *[Moscow International]* 8
Strategic Missiles Withdrawn From Ukraine *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jul]* 8
Army Officer Suggests Steps Against Estonia *[FEDERATSIYA 15 Jul]* 9
North Ossetian Speaker on Ties With Georgia *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Kunadze in Iran, Discusses Nagorno-Karabakh *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Commentary Views Middle East Peace Process *[Moscow International]* 10
Russia Not To Join Council of Europe Until After Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Khasbulatov Calls Europarliament Session 'Depressing' *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
UK Story on Plutonium Availability Rejected *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jul]* 11
Swedish Allegations Over Submarines Questioned *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jul]* 12
Czechoslovakia's Semtex Explosive Viewed *[Moscow TV]* 12

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Constitution Issues

Constitution Needed To Create 'Democratic State' *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Trade Union Leader Supports Draft Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 14
'Main Provisions' of 'Law on Elections' Issued *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Constitution Drafter Alekseyev Interviewed *[KURANTY 15 Jul]* 18

Constitutional Court Issues

Zorkin Favors 'Tough Measures' To Maintain Russia's Unity *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Constitutional Court Hears Ingush, Ossetian Appeals *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jul]* 20
To Examine Appeals on Yeltsin Edicts *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Jul]* 20

Political Issues

Shaposhnikov on Current Activities, Position *[PRAVDA 15 Jul]* 20
Cabinet Leaders' Activities Reported 14 Jul *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 Jul]* 21
Activities Reported 16 Jul *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 16 Jul]* 22
Rutskoy Responds to Corruption Allegations *[Moscow TV]* 22
ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on Nuclear Centers *[15 Jul]* 23
Survey Reveals Russians' Views on Issues, Leaders *[SEGODNYA 16 Jul]* 24

Economic Issues

All-Russian Economic Conference Plans Under Way *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Shumeyko on Promoting Small Business *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 Jul]* 25
Economy Ministry 'Cleansed Itself of Economists' *[SEGODNYA 16 Jul]* 26

Military & Media Issues

Grachev Conducts Air Defense Exercise 15 Jul *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Jul]* 26
Defense Ministry Creates New Aide Positions *[NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA 7 Jul]* .. 26
General Notes Manpower Shortage in Armed Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Notes Shortfall of Over 700,000 *[Russian TV]* 27
Ostankino Calls Amendments to Media Law 'Censorship' *[ITAR-TASS]* 27

Supreme Soviet

Deputies on Tajikistan; Kobets on 'Hostilities' *[Russian TV]* 27
Further on Kobets Address *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Jul]* 28
More on Debate on Tajikistan *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Jul]* 29
Parliament Approves Tajik Friendship Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Discusses Drafts of Constitution *[Radio Rossii]* 30
Yeltsin Constitution Verges on 'Coup d'Etat' *[PRAVDA 15 Jul]* 31
Khasbulatov Sees Russia 'Slipping Into Totalitarianism' *[Moscow TV]* 31
Parliament Discusses Land Reform *[Moscow TV]* 31
Mass Media Law Amended; Federal Council To Meet 12 Aug *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Parliament Wants To 'Neutralize' Privatization Edict *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 15 Jul]* 32
Parliament Passes Law on Precious Metals *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 16 Jul]* 33

Regional Affairs

North Caucasus Volunteers Recruited To Help Abkhazia *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Caucasus Regions Sign Cooperation Treaty *[PRAVDA 16 Jul]* 34
Power Struggle Seen Behind Urals Republic Idea *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jul]* 34
Nizhniy Novgorod Workers Plan Strikes *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Jul]* 34

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kuchma Discusses Economic Agreement, Sevastopol *[URYADOVYY KURYER 13 Jul]* 36
Parties Denounce Economic Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Deputy Wants Dialogue on Sevastopol With Russian Parliament *[Kiev International]* 37
Ambassador Condemns Russian Position *[Moscow TV]* 37
Envoy Notes Ban on Russian Deputies *[Kiev International]* 37
Crimean Speaker Against International Control *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 14 Jul]* 37
Official Discusses Nuclear Policy, Sevastopol *[Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES 13 Jul]* 37
Criticism of U.S. Strike on Iraq Viewed *[KHRESHCHATYK 9 Jul]* 38
Indian President Meets Leaders, Discusses Ties *[Kiev International]* 39
Suggests Cooperation in Science, Technology *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Visits Odessa; Discusses Trade *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
EC Allocates Funds for Modernizing Nuclear Reactors *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 10 Jul]* 39
Turkish Defense Minister on Military Cooperation *[Ankara Radio]* 40

National Affairs

Kravchuk 'Not Against' Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
National Bank Issues 20,000-Karbovantsi Coupons *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 10 Jul]* 40
Officials Comment on Currency Introduction *[MOLOD UKRAYINY 13 Jul]* 40

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Kebich Comments on Tripartite Economic Union *[Minsk TV]* 42
Shushkevich Supports Agreement *[RID]* 42
Defense Ministry Opposes Congress' Military Declaration *[BELINFORM]* 42
Army Chief of Staff Comments on National Security *[Minsk Radio]* 43
German Aid Sought for Help in Destroying Arms *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Jul]* 44
Security Official Dies in Accident *[ITAR-TASS]* 44

Moldova

Snegur Previews Visit to Romania *[Bucharest Radio]* 44
IBRD Experts Issue Recommendations for Market Economy *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 44

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Slavic Economic Union Termed 'Surprising' *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jul]* 45
Press Criticizes Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Constitutional Court To Examine Deputies' Law *[KAZTAG]* 46
Japan Supplies Aid for Homeless *[Moscow Radio]* 46

Kyrgyzstan

International Aid to Bishkek Detailed *[Bishkek Radio]* 46

Tajikistan

'Armed Group' Attacks 12th Border Post *[Moscow TV]* 46
Border 'Relatively Quiet' Overnight *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Parliament, Government Condemn Incursion *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Parliament Issues Condolences *[Dushanbe Radio]* 47
Government Seen in Panic Over Attacks *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 16 Jul]* 47
Russian Forces To Defend Border; Grachev To Visit *[AFP]* 48
Defense Minister Denies Russian 'Strike' on Afghan Village *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
CIS Supreme Command Views Border Attack as 'Hostile Provocation' *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

Uzbekistan

Russia's Volskiy Praises Karimov's Economic Program *[UZBEKISTAN APN]* 49
Birlik Leader Critical of Karimov, Moscow, West
[Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG 15 Jul] 49

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Foreign Ministry Praises Raffaelli Act of 'Good Will' *[ITAR-TASS]* 51

Azerbaijan

Aliyev, Raffaelli Hold News Conference 14 Jul *[Baku TV]* 51

Aliyev 'Not Intimidated' by Personal Threats *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Ganja Commission Completes Investigation, Reports Results 52
Concludes Crises, Foreign Forces To Blame *[TURAN]* 52
Blames Elchibey, Others *[ASSA-IRADA]* 53
'Fratricide', Guseynov 'Responsibility' Noted *[AZERTAC]* 53
Baku Details National Assembly Session Agenda 15 Jul *[Baku Radio]* 53
Former Officials Review Ganja Events With Assembly *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Political Opposition Said To Continue *[TURAN]* 54
Defense Ministry Cited on Armenian Attacks 14-15 Jul *[ASSA-IRADA]* 55
Forces Counterattack in Agdam *[Baku TV]* 55
Transport Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia *[TURAN]* 56

Georgia

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Meets With Shevardnadze *[Radio Rossii]* 57
Russian Company Restores Phone Link *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57
Azerbaijan's Aliyev Sends Letter to Shevardnadze *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57
Shevardnadze Relieves Head of Bolnisi Rayon of Duties *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57
Deadline on Ultimatum to Separatists Expires *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57
Regrouping, Shelling Reported *[Tbilisi Radio]* 58

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Protests Russian 'Interference' *[Tallinn Radio]* 59
Negotiators View Progress of Russian Talks *[Tallinn Radio]* 59
Arms Taken Over by Russia Worth $200 Million *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 59
Laar Returns From Israel; Economic Agreements Planned *[Tallinn Radio]* 60
Holds News Conference on Results *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 60
Israel To Speed Up Arms Deliveries *[BNS]* 60

Committee Formed To Address Servicemen Issues

LD1507191593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1755 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—An international committee for the rights of servicemen and members of their families was registered by the Justice Ministry of the Russian Federation on July 9.

Public organisations from Kazakhstan and Ukraine, many republican, regional and local public organisations tackling servicemen's problems in Russia have become collective members of the committee, Russia's People's Deputy Anatoliy Alexeyev, chairman of the committee, told a press conference here on Thursday.

Their unification into an international committee was prompted by the unsolved nature of the socio-legal problems of servicemen on the territories of ex-Soviet republics and by the lack of a common legal space for the servicemen of the former Soviet Army.

This was also prompted, as it was stated at the press conference, by the inaction of government organisations that are bound to welfare problems of servicemen, members of their families, and veterans.

The inter-agency commission for the social welfare of servicemen—which was set up under authority of the Government of Russia and which is headed by Alexandr Tsalko—was strongly criticised at the press conference. Alexeyev announced his withdrawal from the leadership of the commission which, as he put it, has turned into a bureaucratic machine, and not an effective agency.

The committee leaders believe that the new public organisation and its collective members—which include the Union of Veteran Organisations of Independent States, the Russian Union of Reserve Officers, the Russian Shield Union, the Independent Trade Union of Servicemen, and other public organisations—will be able jointly to "address socio-legal problems and more resolutely come out in defence of the rights of the servicemen."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Jul

LD1607062593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0603 GMT 16 Jul 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 16 ITAR-TASS—Newspapers highlight today the tragic developments on the Tajik-Afghan border, where 25 frontier guards were killed in action on July 13, repulsing an attack of Afghan mujahideens and Tajik fighters on the Russian frontier post. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, publication of the Russian Defence Ministry, carries an article on this subject under the headline "Death of Russian Frontier Guards Is National Tragedy". In the opinion of the newspaper, the most important thing today is "to stop the aggression and to take measures against the aggressors that would bring them back to their senses." The Russian Army has more than enough strength for that, the newspaper writes.

Russian Deputy Defence Minister General Konstantin Kobets spoke before members of parliament on Thursday, telling them about the tragedy on the Tajik-Afghan border. Kobets said in an interview with TRUD that the Defence Ministry regarded the statement of the Russian parliament "as the permission to put the armed forces to use, if need be. This means that we have been allowed to move more troops to Tajikistan and commit them to action."

According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, some 2,000 fighters are now concentrated in Tajikistan. They are divided into several groups and deployed in various regions of the country. "The fact that armed confrontation has been going on for more than six months is evidence enough of their combat efficiency, and without the presence of Russian frontier guard troops and units of the 201st Motorised Rifle Division the Tajik Government would hardly be able to hold out so long," the newspaper writes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA analyses Russia's economic development in the first half of the current year. In the opinion of Mikhail Delyagin, economist from Moscow University, "it is already clear today that Russian society and the Russian economy have passed the crisis test. Now they have to pass the stabilisation test, which is going to be about as difficult."

Russian business circles are worried over an outbreak of violence on the part of criminal structures against Russian business people. This is stressed in an open letter, published by TRUD, which was sent by President of the Association of Russian Banks S. Yegorov and heads of a number of Russian banks to President Yeltsin, the minister of the interior, the security minister and the prosecutor- general. The letter says that about a dozen senior executives of commercial banks were killed recently by hired assassins in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg. In the opinion of the authors of the letter, the law-enforcement agencies "are trying to justify their helplessness by attributing all those crimes to the settlement of accounts by commercial structures."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, TRUD and PRAVDA publish articles dealing with the 75th anniversary of the death of the Russian Tsar Nicolas II and his family.

The St. Petersburg-based newspaper SMENA reports that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development intends to open its office in the city, which will be situated in the central street of St. Petersburg, the Nevsky Prospekt.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an analytical article about the worsening of the political situation in Estonia. In the opinion of the newspaper, the characteristic feature of Estonia's political system is that it lacks the left wing. "All political organisations existing today fall within the limits between the extreme right wing and the centre. Those organisations are represented in the state assembly, elections to which were held last autumn," the newspaper's correspondent writes. According to the newspaper, 600,000

out of 1.6 million residents of Estonia fall under the category of the Russian-speaking population. They are concetrated mostly in the areas of Narva and Tallinn. According to the information of the Russian Democratic Movement of Estonia, 100,000 out of 600,000 want to emigrate from Estonia, some 200,000 will go through the naturalisation procedure and stay there, and 300,000 have not yet made up their minds.

Some Russian and Estonian mass media organs published materials recently about a possibility of an outbreak of a serious conflict in the area of Narva, the newspaper continues. Estonian national- radicals are interested in such a conflict, because "it will attract the attention of the world public and will enable them to describe estonia as a 'victim of the Russian aggression and expansion'".

Grachev Wants CIS Reinforcements in Tajikistan

PM1507124193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By A. Ilin and M. Zverev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Ilin over video of a group of men in military uniforms including Defense Minister Grachev] In connection with the exacerbation of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev sent a memorandum to the Supreme Soviet. The document sent to parliament proposes to reinforce the 201st Motorized Rifle Division and border posts in Tajikistan with military contingents of the CIS peacekeeping forces. In addition it is necessary to authorize the introduction of Russian Air Force units and their deployment following agreement with the Tajik leadership. [passage omitted]

Security Ministry To Use Force

LD1507115793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1103 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jul—The Russian Security Ministry issued a statement today that expresses "a resolute protest to those who planned and encouraged what was effectively an act of aggression" against Russian border guards protecting the Tajik-Afghan border.

"Guided by the provisions of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, border units of the Russian Federation Security Ministry will in future use all available forces and combat resources without exception not only to halt but also to prevent acts of aggression from territory adjacent to the borders of Tajikistan and the CIS," reads the ministry's statement.

The document notes that the Security Ministry and the command of the Russian border guards "have made the operational decisions necessary to ensure that these tasks are carried out without fail in all areas where the Russian border guards are stationed."

"Full responsibility for possible consequences relating to the Russian border guards' execution of these tasks lies with those forces that back armed provocations like the one that took place on the night of 12-13 July," the ministry states.

Security Ministry Statement

LD1507124093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1127 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jul—The Russian Security Ministry issued a statement today that reads:

"In connection with the unprecedented and insolent armed provocation on the Tajik-Afghan border that has resulted in the deaths of Russian border guards who had been devotedly carrying out their military duty, the leadership of the Security Ministry, the command of the Russian Border Troops, and all personnel express their sincerest condolences to the near and dear of the dead and their sympathy to the injured soldiers and civilians.

"The Collegium of the Russian Federation Security Ministry, voicing a resolute protest to those who planned and encouraged what was effectively an act of aggression, unequivocally state the following:

"Guided by the provisions of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, border units of the Russian Federation Security Ministry will in future use all available forces and combat resources without exception not only to halt but also to prevent acts of aggression from territory adjacent to the borders of Tajikistan and the CIS."

"The personnel of the Russian Federation Security Ministry and the Border Troops are profoundly aware of their full responsibility to ensure the protection of Russia's national interests and the lives, dignity, and honor of hundreds of thousands of its countrymen living outside Russia in areas of interethnic, political, and other conflicts.

"In this connection, the border and other structures of the RF Ministry of Security retains the right to use all measures and resources, including preventative, to ensure the state security, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Russia, and a peaceful life for Russian citizens.

"The Security Ministry and the Russian Border Troops Command have made the operational decisions necessary to ensure that these tasks are carried out without fail in all areas where the Russian border guards are stationed. Full responsibility for possible consequences relating to the Russian border guards' execution of these tasks lies with those forces that back armed provocations like the one which took place on the night of 12-13 July."

Rutskoy Calls on Tajikistan To Normalize Situation

LD1507142193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy today issued a statement in connection with the deaths of Russian border guards and servicemen of the 201st Division on the Tajik-Afghan border. He called upon the leadership of Tajikistan to step up efforts to normalize the situation in the republic, put an end to ethnic emnity, and give a decisive rebuff to the provocative sorties by extremists. He called upon the leaders of Afghanistan to take urgent measures to stop that state's territory from being used for purposes hostile to Tajikistan and other CIS countries.

Chernomyrdin Continues Visit to Germany

Highlights Pipeline Project

LD1507145193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1301 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Vyacheslav Kevorkov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn July 15 TASS—The Yamal project is a special project in the implementation of which many Western companies will take part, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Thursday [15 July].

He was responding to a question about the building of the Yamal-Germany natural gas pipeline to be completed at the beginning of the next millennium.

Chernomyrdin, who is visiting Federal Germany, said the project was discussed during his talks with the German leaders during his current visit, focusing mainly around the development of gas fields on the Yamal Peninsula, the building of powerful gas transport systems, compressor stations and factories.

"For Russia this is the project of the century," Chernomyrdin said. "The german concern Ruhrgas cannot cope with it alone. It is open for participation of other major firms of Western countries," he said.

Deems Bonn Talks 'Extremely Important'

LD1507142593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1347 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Vyacheslav Kevorkov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn July 15 TASS—"The talks, held in Bonn on Wednesday [14 July], with the president of Germany, the chancellor and the chiefs of a number of leading ministries were extremely important," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told German and foreign journalists at a press conference here on Thursday.

To Russia, Germany is traditionally a political and economic priority partner in Europe, the Russian premier said. "I am gratified to state that in relations between Russia and Germany there are no matters any longer now, the discussion of which could carry a tinge of confrontation," he emphasised.

The good tradition of a joint headway along the road of deepening partnership and goodneighbourly relations was furthered during the talks between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Irkutsk on July 10-11, Chernomyrdin pointed out.

"It is in our common interests to maintain and give greater scope to versatile cooperation and to seek to achieve greater closeness and trustfulness," the Russian prime minister said.

Touching upon problems that complicate bilateral relations in the financial and economic sphere, he singled out, first of all, Russia's debt to Germany, a decline in goods turnover in 1992 by one third, lower incentives to German capital to invest in the Russian economy.

"Besides, Germany itself experiences substantial financial difficulties which are connected with the need for the economic development of the space of former East Germany, which objectively limits possibilities to meet our wishes in the financial field," Chernomyrdin emphasised.

At the same time, he said in conclusion, "we see real prospects for deeper business contacts in the basic areas of economic cooperation mapped out in the joint statement issued in December by Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl and supplemented during the talks in Irkutsk." The cooperation covers such sectors as machine building, the production of consumer goods, the use of new forms of cooperation—joint ventures, mutual direct investments, leasing, and compensation transactions.

"All this, in our view, will hasten structural changes in the economy of Russia and new federal lands," Chernomyrdin said.

"We highly appreciate Germany's stand on matters aimed at promoting Russian reforms and, in particular, Russia's wider involvement in world trade and in European integration processes," he said.

The Russian prime minister answered journalists' questions which dealt mainly with the repayment of foreign debt by Russia, terms for the operation of German industrialists in Russia, the restoration of close cooperation contacts between firms in Germany's news lands and Russian enterprises.

Speaking about the problem of access to the world market for Russian industrial goods, the prime minister said Russia now has a full range of products which could successfully compete on the world markets. These are primarily engineering products and the output of a number of branches of the light industry. "I disagree with discrimination which now exists with regard to Russian commodities," he stated.

In response to a question about foreign debt, Chernomyrdin said a debt service scheme is being worked out together with banks. "It is aimed at eliminating the debts. The scheme, which is clear to us, has been coordinated with Russia's partners," the premier said.

Meets With German Premier

LD1507170893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Vyacheslav Kevorkov and Gennadiy Kulbitsky]

[Text] Bergisch-Gladbach July 15 TASS—Visiting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Premier Johannes Rau of the German state Northern Rhein-Westfalien met today to discuss a wide range of problems relating to Russian-German economic cooperation and its deepening on the basis of new contacts between regions in the two countries.

The head of the Russian Cabinet told Johannes Rau about the internal political situation in Russia and the decision to form an economic union made by Russia, Ukraine and Belarus last Saturday.

Against the backdrop of uncertainty and the drawn-out search for partners in Russia and Germany, Northern Rhein-Westfalien is rightfully seen as pioneer in the cause.

This German state is developing a close, fruitful cooperation with the Nizhniy Novgorod and Kostroma regions of the Russian Federation. Chernomyrdin assured Rau that these developments enjoy full support of the Russian Government.

Chernomyrdin then left Bergisch-Gladbach for Cologne where he is due to meet the leading representatives of the German business community.

Addresses Businessmen in Cologne

LD1507195393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1852 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Vyacheslav Kevorkov, and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Cologne July 15 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, currently on a working visit to Germany, met on Thursday [15 July] with leading representatives of Germany's business community at the local chamber of industry and commerce.

The speech of the Russian premier provoked great interest of those present. "The present state of affairs in bilateral trade and economic relations cannot satisfy either Russia or Germany", Chernomyrdin stressed. "Now mutual efforts are needed. The Russian side is working hard to create conditions favourable for foreign investments, above all in the sphere of building a stable legal basis for this process", he noted.

The Russian prime minister told German businessmen that Russia was presently drafting laws adjusting legislation on foreign investments to new conditions, as well as working out draft laws on free economic zones and concessional agreements with foreign investors, and a number of other regulating acts.

Chernomyrdin also informed the gathering about the current internal political situation in Russia. At the moment, the main task in the political sphere is to adopt a new constitution and to call early parliamentary elections, he stressed. "We need political stability as the breath of our life now. However, political stability is also necessary for German entrepreneurs, bankers, and all those who have decided to link their fate and the fate of their capitals with the Russian market. And we shall do our best to ensure this stability", he promised.

Unfortunately, Chernomyrdin noted, former ties between the cities and regions of the former German Democratic Republic with their Russian partners have "withered". "We welcome the efforts made by Germany's state of Brandenburg and the Moscow region to establish cooperation, as well as working contacts between this state and the Kaliningrad region", the prime minister pointed out.

Speaking of the progress of Russia's reform, Chernomyrdin said, "On launching reforms, we immediately took the course of making our economy open. And this course, although not without certain reservations, was approved by the world community, which was proved by the results of the recent Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven major industrialized nations. Certainly, not everything is going as good as either side would like. But the main thing is coming to the fore: We are already beginning to pass from declarations of our intents to concrete deeds and programmes", the prime minister emphasised. "I would like to reaffirm that we highly appreciate what the Federal Republic of Germany did and is doing in this line", he added.

"I am certain that the present meeting will impart a new impetus to the development of mechanisms of the onward and regulated growth of economic contacts between our countries and our peoples", Chernomyrdin said in conclusion.

Wolf von Amerongen, chairman of the Eastern Committee for German Economy, told reporters he was satisfied that "the Russian Government is at last headed by a practical worker and an excellent expert in economic and production problems, who has got a clear view of how they may be solved".

Later in the day, Chernomyrdin left Cologne for Berlin.

Arrives in Berlin

LD1507204393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2020 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Aleksey Korinenko, and Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Berlin July 15 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who is currently in Germany on a visit, arrived here on Thursday [15 July].

Accompanied by Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen, he toured the centre of the city and visited the square near the Brandenburg Gate. This ceremony has now become an integral part of visit programmes for all honorary guests.

On Friday the Russian prime minister is to meet with representatives of the business community, hold talks with Birgit Breuyel, chairman of the trusteeship office, and Mannfred Schtolpe, minister-president of Brandenburg Land, tour an engineering plant at Ludwigsfelde. The programme for the visit also includes a meeting with the command of the Western Group of Russian Troops in Wuendsdorf.

Discusses Cooperation With GDR

LD1607121093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Berlin July 16 TASS—Visiting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met on Friday Birgit Breuel, chairperson of the German Board of Trustees, to discuss restoring cooperation between former East Germany and Russia.

TASS learned from sources in the Russian delegation that the closed-door meeting focused on the practice of privatisation in the former socialist part of Germany and in Russia. Several projects worth over one billion German marks were discussed.

Chernomyrdin stressed that Russian businessmen are now free to choose their partners while the government exercises only coordinating functions.

The Board of Trustees, which deals with privatisation of East German enterprises, expressed interest in helping to restore the engine works of the major Russian Kamaz truck factory which was damaged by fire.

Intelligence Service Rejects German Media 'Disinformation'

LD1607104893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—The German DPA News Agency reported that local secret services refused to reveal a source of information about agents of the State Security Ministry in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) "for reasons of preserving secrecy".

A high-ranking officer of the Russian Intelligence Service approached by CRIME-PRESS, said that "this is a forced response to refutations by the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service and the Security Ministry prompted by articles in some German periodicals that Russian Secret Services handed over the archive materials of the former GDR Security Ministry to the German side".

"I would say that this is the end of the disinformation campaign launched by some German mass media on this issue," the officer noted.

'Compromise' Needed in Talks on Indian Rocket Engine Deal

PM1507144793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Moscow-Delhi Deal: Russia and United States Ready for Compromise"]

[Text] Washington—Talks which, if they succeed, will help to solve an extremely acute problem that has arisen between Moscow, Washington, and Delhi are being held at the U.S. State Department.

The Russian side at these talks, which are focusing on the contract to supply India with Russian rocket motors and technology for their production, is represented by an almost totally new delegation. It is headed by Yuriy Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency (Glavkosmos), instead of by Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin. Interestingly, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, which at former rounds categorically advocated keeping the Russian-Indian contract untouched, have been relegated to playing second or even third fiddle in the delegation.

The delegation was changed on the direct instructions of President Boris Yeltsin, who recently began personally to deal with this problem.

In addition to personnel changes, Russia has also slightly changed the substance of its position, according to informed sources, who, however, categorically refused to clarify what specifically it is a matter of and asked people to wait for the end of the talks.

The adjustments made by the Russians are accompanied by some steps by the Americans to meet them halfway. In particular, Washington has decided to block the introduction of sanctions against a number of our space organizations. Sanctions were to have been applied 15 July in protest at some aspects of the Russian-Indian contract. They included depriving Russia of the opportunity to accept U.S. commercial payloads for launching by its own carrier rockets. This could cost us around $700 million alone. By way of comparison, the deal with India is estimated at $400 million at most, and at only $200 million according to certain information.

If the present talks do result in a compromise, our premier can be expected to visit the U.S. capital in the comparatively near future—to sign, inter alia, accords on cooperation between the two countries in the space sphere, that is, accords at present blocked by our contract with Delhi.

Commentary on Deal

MK1607090093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 34, 16 Jul 93 (signed to press 15 Jul) p 1

[Dmitriy Frolov commentary under "Standoff" rubric: "Outer Space as Continuation of Geopolitics. The Issue of Cryogenic Engines Has Taken on the Shape of a Triangle With Very Sharp Angles"]

[Text] It is more than likely that during the talks that began this week in Washington between the U.S. and Russian delegations of the departments concerned, the fate of the contract for Russia's delivery of cryogenic engines to India will finally be decided. Until yesterday official sources have kept silent about the progress of the talks. Nonetheless, a decision will come soon, which does not at all mean that its consequences will become clear just as quickly. This involves not so much a scientific-technical and commercial sphere as, above all, a political one.

The struggle for the space technology market, which is usually invoked to explain the U.S. overt pressure on Russia, is merely a formal cover that makes it possible to avoid talking openly about Russia's struggle for the right to be called a great power. That the question is really acute is shown by at least the contradictory positions declared by Russia at various times throughout this conflict, which has been going on for more than a year now.

The surface contradictions in the Russian-Indian transaction are a reflection of the deep internal conflict between the aspirations of the Russian Foreign Ministry team, which its opponents call pro-American, on one hand, and the military-industrial complex, whose interests, should the contract fall through, would be infringed the most seriously, on the other. Apparently it is representatives of the Russian military-industrial complex who will continue to insist that in the event of a concession to the U.S. side Russia would "lose face," since this is being described as an attempt to break the agreement on control over the proliferation of missile technology to which Russia has not acceded.

Experts are inclined to think that Russia will not manage to stick to its original positions. A way out is apparently possible only based on a reasonable compromise, taking into account, among other things, the interests of India.

'Space Triangle' Viewed

MK1607094893 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 34, 16 Jul 93 (Signed to Press 15 Jul) p 7

[Mikhail Chernyshov commentary in "Rivalry" column: "The Space Triangle"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Up until recently the United Stated did not consider it possible to interfere in Russian-Indian space relations. It did not launch a massive attack until the recent period.

"In the last few months," Glavkosmos department chief Nikolay Semenov says, "there have been five meetings between Russian and U.S. specialists related to the missile technology proliferation control regime. A cause for that was the signing of an agreement between Russia and India on delivery to the Indians of components for two Russian-made cryogenic engines and technology for their production. The contract was signed following the results of an international tender. U.S. and French firms took part in it, but the Russians won, thanks to an appropriate design whereby the booster block is well compatible with the last stage of the missile. Domestic specialists maintained that such engines could not have any military application, but the Americans, after losing the tender, switched on the missile technology proliferation control mechanism.... They demanded that Russia observe the rules of the game provided for under this agreement, although it is not a signatory to it. Russia, nonetheless, it announced that it would adhere to its principles."

If Russia accepts the U.S. conditions, it would risk losing the Indian market. If it does not give in to the U.S. pressure, all Western commercial projects would be virtually closed to it.

What is Russia losing on the Indian market? Direct potential losses are estimated between $400 million and $500 million. These losses come from reimbursement to the Indian side for damages for violation of the contract, opportunity losses, and other factors. But this is not all. Russian-Indian relations in nuclear power engineering, metallurgy, and other sectors of industrial cooperation, as well as in the sphere of Russian arms sales to India, could be impaired. Russia's unreliability with respect to the treaty will negatively affect its foreign economic ties with other Southeast Asian states. Some 60,000 employees in the Russian military-industrial complex, who are working to fill Indian orders, would lose their jobs.

What would be the consequences of deteriorated relations with the Americans? Most likely the United States would not issue permission for launching the Inmarsat-3 satellite and Iridium low-orbit communications satellites. The Mir-Freedom station project would be frozen. Russia's losses would constitute approximately the same sum as in the case with the Russian-Indian contract. The United States, incidentally, as a result of using such "sanctions," would lose considerably more: some $4-6 billion by failing to use the less expensive Russian equipment.

But actually, Russia would lose its monopoly right over Mir, and the leakage of a substantial part of technological and other secrets related to orbital stations would be inevitable, and for the time being Russia still holds a leading position in this sphere. In exchange for this we are getting some vague promises from the United States of giving Russia access to participation in tenders on launches with Proton missiles of eight West European satellites in 1996-2000, and other similarly vague prospects. Importantly, all possible joint projects are laden with so many qualifications and conditions that the practical chances of such agreements being implemented are virtually zero.

Viktor Chernomyrdin sent a letter to Boris Yeltsin proposing the holding of an international examination on the legitimacy of missile technology proliferation control procedures being applied to the Russian-Indian cryogenic engine contract, obtaining firm guarantees from the United States on compensation for potential commercial damage, and influencing the U S. President to block sanctions by U.S. departments with respect to Russia.

The Russian Federation president, having studied the premier's letter, apparently agreed with his statement of the case. In any event, the document bears a corresponding resolution. But.... At the beginning of this year Boris Yeltsin, when in India, firmly promised that the contract on cryogenic engines would be totally fulfilled. Four months later—in Vancouver—the Russian president no less decisively gave his word to Bill Clinton to revise the contract terms. What was said about this at the latest "7+1" meeting in Tokyo is still shrouded in deep secrecy.

Officials View U.S. 'Immigration Privileges'

PM1507183993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Igor Andreyev report: "The United States Opens the Gates to Our Defense Workers. View From the Russian Side"]

[Text] A new immigration law has come into force in the United States, ITAR-TASS reports. Henceforth entering that country and finding a job will be made considerably easier for scientists and engineers who worked in the former USSR on the creation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. A quota has been established: Not more than 750 persons, not counting their families, will be able to take advantage of the immigration privileges.

Unfortunately, no one in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was able (or willing?) to comment on this piece of news. In the consular department they said that they do not give telephone interviews. When I expressed readiness to go immediately to Tchaikovsky Street, they wished me success in my work, but did not invite me to drop in on them. I did not manage to get through to the embassy press office,

whose telephone number they gave me after satisfying themselves that I was not a potential immigrant.

Russian interlocutors proved far more democratic. The chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Security Public Relations Center, Aleksey Kondaurov, stressed that his department is examining the problem of the "brain drain," guiding itself, naturally, by Russian, and not U.S. laws. In particular, by the entry and exit law of the former USSR, which was confirmed by the Russian Federation parliament. According to this document, the right to deem a person as a carrier of a classified information belongs to the administration of the enterprise where he works. According to Kondaurov, the Russian Ministry of Security only monitors this activity by departments and checks applicants for foreign-travel passports through its channels. If the management is not against its employee going abroad, the Russian Ministry of Security does not object. However, the chief of the Public Relations Center did not rule out that the concessions of the U.S. immigration authorities could attract Russian defense workers. Some of them, he said, would probably try to leave Russia, and the Russian Ministry of Security's job is to prevent the departure of actual carriers of classified information.

Kondaurov's colleague from the Ministry of Atomic Energy—Vitaliy Nasonov, deputy chief of information and public relations—commented on the event in roughly the same way. In his view, the former USSR entry and exit law regulates sufficiently clearly the circumstances in which the holder of classified information may be lawfully refused a passport for foreign travel. Nonetheless, in Vitaliy Petrovich's opinion a corresponding Russian law is needed enshrining greater definitiveness on this subject.

The problem is a serious one, Aleksandr Medvedev, chief of the Ministry of Atomic Energy's Legal Department said, but not in the sense that there is a greater inclination toward emigration among major specialists in the sphere of, say, nuclear weapons. As a rule, Medvedev believes, they are patriots, and do not intend to leave, but providing scientists and engineers with working conditions worthy of their intellect and equivalent pay is an extremely important task. The department is doing all it can to achieve this within the framework of the conversion program now underway in the Ministry of Atomic Energy.

I will venture to add off my own bat: The new U.S. immigration law is an added headache, not only for Russia's defense departments and special services, but also for those of the the United States. After all, if America requires foreign developers of weapons of mass destruction, it is probably not in order to make saucepans, and therefore, hundreds of specialist defense workers from the former USSR could find their way into the holy of holies of the trans-Atlantic military-industrial complex and who can vouch that among the new immigrants there will not turn out to be masters of an analogous profession, and one that, alas, is fairly widespread in our country?

U.S.-DPRK Talks in Switzerland Viewed

SK1607041493 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1020 GMT 15 Jul 93

[From the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The U.S. and DPRK delegates held the second round of talks on the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula in Switzerland on 14 July.

According to ITAR-TASS, the main topic of the 14 July talks was how to put the U.S.-DPRK joint declaration, which had been adopted at the first round of the talks, into practice. In the joint declaration, the DPRK and the United States each stressed their faithfulness to the principles that the Korean peninsula should be changed into a free and peaceful zone devoid of nuclear weapons, that either country would not invade the other side, that they support the peaceful reunification of Korea, and that they would not use armed forces, including nuclear weapons. The DPRK promised to suspend its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

In a news conference following the first-day session of the Switzerland talks, the chief delegates of both sides noted that the talks had been very useful and agreed to (?settle) the issue of the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] inspection of the DPRK in an impartial direction.

The DPRK once denounced the IAEA by saying it lacked objectivity in its demands. In January, Pyongyang refused international inspections of two of its sites [taesang], which aroused Western countries' suspicion of nuclear weapons development. As a result, the IAEA tried to force the DPRK to accept even unprecedented special inspections of the sites. The DPRK Government, however, responded by deciding to withdraw from the NPT.

Dialogue between the United States and the DPRK, which started in June, is aimed at stabilizing the acute situation and removing the cause behind the threat to world peace.

Strategic Missiles Withdrawn From Ukraine

PM1507150993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Strategic Missiles Start Leaving Ukraine. Warheads Remaining Behind for the Moment"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA has learned that the first of the five strategic missile regiments stationed in Pervomaysk, Nikolayev Oblast, in Ukraine began being stood down from combat alert 15 July. We reported the agreement to this effect between the Russian and Ukrainian Governments in issue No. 119 of 29 June.

The regiment had 10 RS-18 (known under the NATO classification system as SS-19 "light" ICBM's) on combat alert. Each had a launch weight of 105.6 tonnes and a throw weight of 4.35 tonnes. The missile nose cone contained six nuclear warheads. The missiles were manufactured at Moscow's Khrunichev plant and had come to the end of their warranty and service life on combat duty. They could not have been kept in service, specialists say,

since it would have meant incurring a great deal of material expenditure and a major safety risk.

The missile bodies are now being separated from the nose cones (which will remain in Ukraine for the time being until the fate of nuclear weapons in the republic is finally resolved), their mission programming is being downloaded and their fuel components removed (they carry around 90 tonnes of fuel, including the highly toxic and explosive heptyl, which will be remaining in Ukraine, incidentally). The "units" will then be removed from their silos and dispatched to an elimination base at the settlement of Pibanshur in Udmurtia. But even there, specialists say, the process of dismantling the missiles will be slow and difficult.

The missiles' fuel tanks will be "steamed out" [proparivat] over 10 days using a special compound in a closed, environmentally friendly process. It is very expensive but will ensure that there will be no explosions—as was the case with the medium-range missiles—and that nothing will enter the atmosphere or the soil.

All this work, I was told at the Strategic Rocket Forces headquarters, will be done only by authorized specialists following a technological process that has been developed and verified over the course of years. These will include rocket forces officers as well as engineers and designers from the Russian and Ukrainian enterprises (more than 60 of them) which cooperated on the development of the SS-19 and are responsible for each part of the missile.

The entire process of standing down the 10 strategic missiles, sending them to Russia, and dismantling them will be relatively protracted—taking until 10 September. And although, as people say, one swallow does not make a summer, things are now moving. Russia and Ukraine, and their politicians—despite the many difficulties in relations between the two fraternal countries—have finally realized the threat posed to their own nuclear safety by obsolete strategic missiles that have outlived their service life.

Incidentally, this is something that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk—who visited 43d Strategic Missile Army installations in Vynnytsya and Khmelnytskyy the other day, went down into the missile silos, and met with the officers on combat duty—has personally seen for himself.

Let us hope that the 166 strategic missiles left in Ukraine after the removal of the first 10 will also cease to pose any threat in due course.

Army Officer Suggests Steps Against Estonia

MK1507114093 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian 15 Jul 93 (signed to press 14 Jul) p 1

[Article by Vadim Romanov, Russian Army officer, under the "Point of View rubric: "About Time to Rap 'em on the Knuckles"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a very complex situation, the Russian Federation, if it thinks of itself as a Great Power, should react in an adequate manner to whoever's attempts to insult the honor and dignity of its citizens, to violate their rights. The time of persuasion and flirtation with the Baltic nationalists is over. There is a need now, instead of the vacuous statements by the Russian Foreign Ministry, for concrete and tough actions by the parliament and government of the Russian Federation. The following should be listed among the top-priority ones:

1. The renunciation by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet of the legislative acts on Russia's recognition of Estonia's state independence. Until then, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium has decided to put to a Supreme Soviet session the question of renouncing the 1920 Tartu peace treaty, under which the old Russian lands of the city of Narva and part of today's Pechorskiy Rayon of Pskov Oblast were turned over to Estonia.

2. The bringing up to strength to the January 1992 level of the grouping of Russian troops and forces of the Baltic Fleet currently on Estonian territory and in its territorial waters.

3. The restoration of Russian Federation border and customs control along the land and sea border of the former USSR between Estonia and the contiguous states.

4. The estimation, with the participation of international experts, of the cost (in world prices) of industrial, transportation installations, and infrastructure built on Estonian territory after 1945 less Estonia's own share in their financing and construction.

5. The certification, on the basis of international law, of Estonia's state debt to the Russian Federation, determination of the procedure, deadlines, and terms of its repayment.

6. To put on the agenda of the next UN General Assembly session the question of withdrawing Estonia's membership in the international body on the grounds that it is an apartheid state.

7. The insuring, in accordance with the universal principle of the right of nations to self-determination, of the freedom of expression for citizens in areas with prevailing ethnic Russian populations as regards their future state affiliation.

Even so, Russia's reaction to all encroachments on the rights, freedoms, and interests of the Russian-speaking population on the part of local Estonian authorities should be analogous to the behavior of the United States in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Iraq, or Libya—that is, to correspond to the norms of international behavior and communication in force now, in the epoch of a "new world order." In a word, everything should be done that is provided for in the UN Charter and its practice in order to persuade these sorry Estonian politicians of the need to take a more realistic and sober look at the realities of the modern world. As for Russia, it would make it possible for it to consolidate its shaken prestige.

North Ossetian Speaker on Ties With Georgia

LD1407133693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1225 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz July 14 TASS—Russia should preserve its traditional ties with the Trans-Caucasus, North Ossetian Parliament Speaker Askharbek Galazov said. "But the signing of a large-scale bilateral agreement with the Republic of Georgia can be possible only if the Georgian side observes international norms connected with the protection of human rights and the recognition of the autonomy of Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Adzhariya," Galazov said in the exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS.

Commenting on the results of the meeting of the leaders of the North Caucasus and southern Russia that ended in the Russian Black Sea resort city of Sochi on Tuesday, Galazov stressed that its participants discussed a wide range of issues connected with the stabilisation of the situation in the North Caucasus.

Speaking about the normalisation of relations between North Ossetia and Ingushetia, Galazov said the way to peace and accord lies through talks and mutual compromises.

He added that the meeting also focused on the relations with the Chechen Republic. "I said that not only neighbouring republics should determine their positions towards the Chechen Republic, but Russia's leadership as well. If the Chechen Republic is part of Russia, it should comply with all-Russia norms. If the Russian leadership has put with the fact that the Chechen Republic has seceded from Russia, relations with it should be built on the same basis as with other CIS states, that is through agreements," Galazov said.

Kunadze in Iran, Discusses Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1507142793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, 15 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze today ended consultations with representatives of the Iranian leadership, during which bilateral relations were largely discussed. The main problem in these relations is the drastic, more than twofold, reduction in mutual trade compared with 1991. This has been caused both by a failure to settle mutual accounts as well as the lax manner in which the Iranian side is meeting its financial commitments. During the consultations, G. Kunadze received assurances that the problem of delaying payments will soon be resolved.

The sides positively assessed the prospects for cooperation in the Caspian Sea, including within the framework of an organization uniting all Caspian states. At the same time, according to the Russian representative, Moscow is stressing the need for the swiftest possible conclusion of an agreement on conserving and using the biological resources of the Caspian, taking into consideration the fact setting up a regional organization and ratifying its charter may be drawn out.

Russia and Iran have confirmed that they are taking a stand of neutrality regarding the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. After touching on the recent decision of the Islamic Conference Organization on sending Moslem troops to Bosnia, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati pointed out that the final decision on this issue should be made by the UN secretary general, at whose request this problem was examined at the Islamic Conference Organization meeting in Islamabad.

Commentary Views Middle East Peace Process

LD1407142693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Announcer-read Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Excerpts] The American coordinator at the Arab-Israeli talks, Dennis Ross, has completed his week long tour of the Middle East countries. The results are not very consoling.

The attempt to breathe a new life in the 20-month-long negotiating process has proved futile. The stands occupied by Israel, Syria, and the Palestinians are irreconcilable. [passage omitted]

Still, I would certainly not foretell the future of the Arab-Israeli talks. First, none of the parties said about boycotting them. Second, quite a few documents and draft settlements have been devised which, if finalized, may become the basis for discussion.

The United States and Russia, co-sponsors at the Madrid conference, intensify their efforts to resume as early as possible the Arab-Israeli dialogue. The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will possibly leave for the Middle East next week. Moscow also does a good deal of work in this direction through diplomatic channels.

There is still a chance to restart the Arab-Israeli dialogue early in August. I believe it would be fruitful if the talks are raised to the level of foreign ministers.

Russia Not To Join Council of Europe Until After Elections

LD1507163693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Philipov]

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—"Russia is not likely to join the Council of Europe until a new constitution is adopted and new elections to representative bodies of power are held." This is the conclusion made by members of the Russian parliamentary delegation who held a news conference on Thursday upon completion of their visit to Strasbourg.

The delegation, which visited the headquarters of the European Parliament between July 12-14, was led by chairman of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov.

In the opinion of Viktor Mazayev, member of the delegation, the visit of Russian deputies to Strasbourg showed that the ouster of the Russian parliament from the internal political arena is being extended to an "international" arena as well.

At the same time, Deputy Vladimir Novikov proudly quoted Khasbulatov as saying in the headquarters of the Council of Europe that "for the sake of promptly joining a certain political organization, Russia will sacrifice neither its sovereignty, nor its Constitution, nor political principles".

Incidentally, many members of the delegation did not regard the issue of joining the Council of Europe as the main goal of the visit to Strasbourg. Some deputies pointed out that as a result of the visit they gained knowledge and valuable information in the sphere of parliamentary activities and expressed satisfaction with another factor of expanding international interparliamentary ties.

"The entire programme of the visit of the Russian parliamentary delegation to Strasbourg, where it carried out certain work in the European Parliament and in the Council of Europe, has been implemented," Novikov said.

He declared that a delegation of the European Parliament, in return, is expected to pay a visit to Russia between October 4-8, 1993.

Khasbulatov Calls Europarliament Session 'Depressing'

LD1507182693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1800 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov admitted at a meeting with newspaper editors' in-chief, held at a press-club on Thursday [15 July], that his impression of the session of the European Parliament was "depressing".

"Both myself and my colleagues regarded it as uncovered national selfishness. Earlier, they somehow managed to conceal this, whereas today, they are frankly attempting to assert their role as a force deciding our politics, our internal affairs and attempting to unscrupulously interfere and impose their views," Khasbulatov said.

"This shows that our international positions have been seriously weakened," Khasbulatov added. In his opinion, these positions have been weakened primarily because of general political instability which is being created by politicians waging endless struggle.

Khasbulatov believes that a declaration of national accord on the economic reform should be a common platform. "National accord might be achieved around this declaration as well," Khasbulatov pointed out.

Nevertheless, Khasbulatov admitted that "two days of discussions on cooperation with Russia and Eastern Europe held by the commission of the European Parliament passed normally." However, he added that one could see that Russia was treated as some "third-rate country" and there was apparent willingness to "dictate terms to Russia."

UK Story on Plutonium Availability Rejected

PM1507163793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 6

[Reports by Aleksandr Krivopalov from London, Vladimir Mikheyev, and Marat Zubko from Helsinki under the general heading: "Plutonium 'Bomb' From Russia Failed To Explode in London"]

[Text] **Much Ado About Nothing**

London—The "sensational" ITN report, covered in IZVESTIYA (No. 127, 9 July) was broadcast last Tuesday. The journalistic "bombshell"—which everyone had been expecting—did not have any particular impact.

The fact is that the report on types of radioactive materials allegedly offered to TV reporter Roger Cook on the Moscow "black market" was unconvincing.

Anyone watching the ITN report would not have gotten an answer to the main question of just where in Russia you would find this "black market" in weapons-grade plutonium which was mentioned in the blurb. Nonetheless, R. Cook did provide some information for consideration. The report contained footage shot, we must assume, by a hidden camera. The reporter, accompanied by a translator and a cameraman, visited the home of a middleman who was allegedly prepared to sell the deadly goods to Western clients.

The underground Moscow dealer was even able to dispatch the entire consignment of plutonium—25 kg—in its own container. He also mentioned the likely route to be taken—via Vilnius.

We do not know whether the "nuclear trader" living somewhere in the Moscow suburbs gave the Briton full information about himself. At any rate, we learned his name—Gennadiy. And we had a full-face shot of him to camera. It remains for people knowledgeable about these things to judge how much truth there is to the story covered by British TV.

What the British Journalist Left Out

The IZVESTIYA Editorial Office has asked one of the people featured in the program—Georgiy Alekseyevich Kaurov, chief of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy's Information and Public Relations Administration—to share his observations with us.

"The pretext for the meeting was a request to comment on a possible strike at the Arzamas-16 nuclear center and also to share my views on ways of utilizing nuclear waste," said G. Kaurov, who was actually questioned solely about leaks of the basic materials needed to manufacture nuclear munitions.

Using the "surprise factor," as the Ministry of Atomic Energy expert put it, two video cameras filmed him in close-up as Roger Cook and his team showed him several curious documents.

The first of these was a certificate of the quality of some product comprising 10 percent plutonium-239, 85 percent plutonium-240, and a number of additives. Such a substance would be unsuitable for manufacturing a nuclear charge—as the British TV reporter was officially told. The second document was also a certificate, giving the name of the product—a "uranium-plutonium compound." Total weight was given as 1,000 grams. This too would be unsuitable for turning into a bomb. More precisely, it was a question of fuel for very specific nuclear research reactors. Here too "Doctor Kaurov" did not try to be misleading but was quite dispassionate in his statements.

Finally, he was asked to look at a mass spectrometry analysis. This was a very "incomprehensible attempt." The level of enrichment of the uranium-235 vis-a-vis the uranium-238 was 2 percent. Once again, this material could in no way serve as the basis for a weapon of mass destruction. And, once again, the meticulous Roger Cook was told this quite clearly.

It seems as though the answers to his questions did little to satisfy the TV reporter on his flying visit to Moscow. He preferred to leave the explanations of "Doctor Kaurov" out of the film. They were clearly at odds with the game plan of illustrating the theory that there is a living and thriving "black market" in Russia where nuclear bombs or their ingredients can easily be obtained.

Finnish Newspaper Story

Helsinki—A correspondent for the Finnish evening newspaper ILTA LEHTI, along with colleagues from other countries, has carried out an illegal deal in Moscow to acquire enough plutonium-239 to make three atom bombs. This means, the journalist concludes, that all control over radioactive material has been lost on the territory of the former USSR.

The newspaper published a sensational report headlined "ILTA LEHTI Buys an Atom Bomb."

Reijo Ruokanen, the newspaper's correspondent, together with British and German journalists, made contact with underground dealers over the course of three months. And they finally found a dealer who stated that he was prepared to supply the "real goods"—that is, 15-16 kg of plutonium-239. He offered two lead containers of samples as confirmation of this.

The newspaper reported that the buyers had been offered the goods at the rate of $15 million per kilo of plutonium. The dealer asked for $1 million in cash, with the remainder to be paid into a bank account. Another $100,000 was, as he put it, to be given to "scientists in a closed city." At the end of the conversation the journalists were also offered the chance to acquire an SS-20 nuclear missile at the same time.

At the journalists' request a Finnish expert constructed a model of a nuclear bomb which could use the plutonium-239 that was on offer. Such a charge could easily fit into an ordinary attache case.

The Finnish authorities reacted immediately to the ILTA LEHTI article. Lauri Ervola, department chief at the Finnish Customs Administration, stated that highly sensitive devices are being installed at all border posts. These will be capable of detecting radioactive materials carried in baggage or as freight.

Swedish Allegations Over Submarines Questioned

PM1407153593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Marat Zubko: "Swedes Persist in Considering Unidentified Submarines To Be Russian"]

[Excerpts] Stockholm—The Swedish coast guards, the newspaper SVENSKA DAGBLADET reports, have detected a new violation of the Swedish sea border by an unidentified submarine. [passage omitted]

The question arises: Has the Swedish side not become over-obsessed with Russia's involvement in violations of Sweden's territorial waters? Understandably, after 10 years of noisy campaigns against the USSR it is hard for the Swedish authorities to mend their ways. They very much want by any means to get proof that Russia has inherited from the former Soviet Union the passion for espionage intrigues in Swedish waters. You remember? General Bengt Gustafsson even promised our former submarine men bonuses for identifications. But there are still not confirmations and information that other states are involved in the violations of Sweden's sea border are for some reason not taken seriously in Stockholm.

The Swedish newspaper EXPRESSEN, for instance, recently published a long interview with USSR naval intelligence Captain Yu. Zorya, who testified that Western saboteurs arrested in the GDR in the sixties and seventies had confessed during interrogation that in particular they had created in Swedish skerries their own secret bases from which they intended to operate against the Baltic republics and Poland. Who can guarantee that similar activity is not being conducted today?

Czechoslovakia's Semtex Explosive Viewed

LD1607015293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1350 GMT 11 Jul 93

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] [Announcer] Reports in the press about the recent U.S. missile attack on the intelligence center in Baghdad appeared under a terrorism headline. Some were referring to Iraq and others to the United States. The former Czechoslovakia has become the homeland of another sophisticated weapon used by terrorists, the plastic explosive Semtex.

[Begin correspondent Viktor Lyubovtsev recording] At one time after the end of WWII, Czechoslovakia received

all its combat equipment from the USSR: tanks, artillery pieces, aircraft, and armored personnel carriers. But today one can see them only in military museums and in some private collections. Today the Czech army is equipped mainly by Czech military plants, first-class enterprises which used to supply all the countries of the Warsaw Pact. The Czech Republic recently demonstrated its own combat equipment and weapons produced with Soviet licenses at an international fair in Brno.

At the same time, there is one type of Czech weapon which has never been exhibited. Its name is Semtex, the notorious plastic explosive which has already killed thousands of people. It is enough to mention the destruction of the Boeing-747 over Lockerbie in December 1988, the explosion of the car carrying the state judge in Italy before the mafia trials in June 1992, and terrorist acts in Europe, America, and the Middle East.

Semtex has become the favorite terror weapon for the Irish and Palestinian extremists, Islamic fanatics, and especially the mafia gangs throughout the world. Take a look at this Semtex. It is an explosive of devastating force which looks as innocent as children's plasticine. It has no smell. Mine detectors do not register it, nor do electronic devices at airports. It is easy to carry Semtex in a small case and hide it anywhere. One kg of Semtex is sufficent to blow up a vehicle and its passengers or to destroy the outer skin of an aircraft. Two or three kg can make a hole in the hull of a ship or tear the steel doors off a bank safe. I will leave it to your imagination as to what 10 kg can do.

(Stanislav Berbera), inventor of the wonder weapon, is distinguished by true modesty, as are most of his weapon-making counterparts—for instance our Kalashnikov—who are used to a regime of secrecy. Appearing in front of the Czech television cameras for the first time ever, Engineer (Berbera) said that Semtex is indeed a high-quality and world-class explosive but that plastic materials of the same kind have been made in the United States, Great Britain, Sweden, France, and other countries for a long time, even though it was the Czech Semtex that was used by U.S. forces for the destruction of Iraqi mine fields in Kuwait.

Semtex, which was created 30 years ago, was intially used in underground and underwater blasting work, at construction sites, in welding work using the blast method, and other operations. Red Semtex of the 1-A type is still in use for these tasks today, while the orange SX was especially earmarked for military use. From 1967 the Czech Republic supplied it for the fraternal socialist states. The latest black S-10 type is also used by the army, and not only the Czech army.

Semtex was sold like hot cakes. It was purchased in this country by many states. For instance, no less than 1,000 tonnes was sold over time to Libya. It was from Libya that the IRA terrorists got this explosive.

Two years ago the Czech Republic introduced a new procedure for the export of plastic explosives. Semtex can be exported only with a state license, which is in accordance with UN resolutions prohibiting the supply of weapons to risk zones and the trouble spots of the world. To block smuggling routes, Czech chemists have started to mark the weapon in a special way. Now special instruments register the explosive. They are capable of registering even minute traces of the explosive and establish the date it was produced and its serial number.

Nevertheless, even at the top-security military enterprise (Syntezia) where it is made, losses of the explosive are registered from time to time, as the management representative admitted in an interview. As for the Czech police, it regularly detains criminals attempting to take the explosive out of the country. Many international terrorists and mafia people are after this orange, red, and black plastic. That is why the words Caution Semtex are always topical. [end recording]

Constitution Issues

Constitution Needed To Create 'Democratic State'

LD1507162193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1441 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—"Bringing the contents of the draft Russian constitution home to all citizens of Russia is an essential condition for the passing of the fundamental law without which it will be impossible to create a democratic state".

This is the position of executive power expressed by Russian Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko at a meeting with the editors-in-chief of the media on Thursday.

According to Shumeyko, the importance of adopting the constitution under present conditions is based on the need "to overcome the dual power situation" in the country. "Russia needs political certainty, one constitutional system of power", emphasised the vice-premier. "New elections will put everything in place", he added.

Forecasting the "post-electoral" situation, he expressed confidence that a single system of power would assist in working out a foreign policy and strengthening the processes of integrating Russia with the CIS countries. "Then our powerful state will become competitive on all world markets", declared Shumeyko.

During the meeting with editors-in-chief, the first vice-premier supported the idea of setting up a press bank by the editorial offices of the biggest publishing houses to support the material and technical basis of the mass media.

The meeting also dealt with ways of the government providing help in maintaining a single information space on the territory of the CIS countries.

Trade Union Leader Supports Draft Constitution

LD1507133193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Igor Klochkov, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, described the participation by trade union representatives in the work of the constitutional conference as fruitful. Speaking to journalists, he noted that thanks to the representatives of various trade unions, vital articles have appeared in the draft Russian constitution in defense of the social protection of working people. It is significant that the draft constitution enshrines a provision on the noninterference by the state in trade union affairs and guarantees their freedom of activity.

'Main Provisions' of 'Law on Elections' Issued

LD1607121793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0535 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—We are transmitting "The Main Provisions of the Law on Elections of Deputies to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation," drawn up by an intersectional group of the Constitutional Conference.

Main Provisions of the Law on Elections of Deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly

In accordance with the norms of the draft constitution of the Russian Federation drawn up by the Constitutional Conference, a draft law on elections to the Federal Assembly (parliament) has been prepared for examination. Its main provisions are proposed to be approved as follows.

1. The Main Principles of Elections

Elections to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly shall be universal, equal, direct, and free, and shall be carried out by secret ballot.

2. Franchise

i. Every citizen of the Russian Federation of 18 years of age and above shall have the right to vote in elections to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly.

ii. A citizen of the Russian Federation of 21 years of age and above shall be able to be elected deputy to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly.

iii. Citizens deemed incapacitated by court or citizens kept in places of detention on court verdicts shall not be able to vote or be elected.

3. Elections to the State Duma [pre-revolutionary state assembly]

i. The State Duma shall consist of 450 deputies.

ii. One half of the deputies to the State Duma shall be elected on the basis of a majority system from single seat (one deputy per constituency) constituencies formed within the members of the Russian Federation.

iii. The other half of the deputies to the State Duma shall be elected on the basis of a proportional system from an all-Federation constituency.

4. Elections to the Soviet of the Federation

i. Deputies to the Soviet of the Federation shall be elected in two-seat constituencies (two deputies per constituency) within members of the Russian Federation.

ii. At elections to the Soviet of the Federation, each voter shall vote for one candidate only.

5. The Right To Nominate Candidates

i. Lists of candidates to the State Duma, elected from the Federal constituency, shall be put forward by electoral associations. Candidates to the State Duma, elected in single-seat constituencies, and candidates to the Soviet of the Federation shall be elected by groups of voters and by electoral associations.

ii. An electoral association is a party, a political movement whose rules are registered in the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, or a bloc of such public associations which is set up for the electoral campaign. Such a bloc shall be able to incorporate other public associations registered with the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice if their rules allow participation in elections. A party, a political movement, or a public organization shall be able to belong to only one electoral association. If a party or a political movement joins a bloc, they shall not be able to campaign as an independent electoral association.

6. Financing Elections

i. The Russian Federation state budget shall finance the organization and conduct of elections to the Federal Assembly.

ii. In order to finance their electoral campaign, candidates and electoral associations shall have the right to use their own resources and voluntary donations within norms established by Law.

7. Conduct of Elections by Electoral Commissions

In deciding all matters connected with the preparation and conduct of elections, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation and subordinate commissions shall be independent of other state bodies within the bounds of their jurisdiction as established by law.

8. Formation of Electoral Constituencies for Elections to the State Duma

i. Single-seat constituencies within a member of the Russian Federation shall be equal as regards the number of residents, with a permissible divergence of up to 15 percent.

ii. The number of constituencies for elections to the State Duma appropriate to each member of the Russian Federation shall be [illegible]xed in proportion to the number of voters.

9. Electoral Rolls

i. The electoral roll shall list every citizen of the Russian Federation who meets the requirements of the present law and is permanently resident in the constituency for which the roll is compiled.

ii. The ward electoral commission shall be obliged to ensure that representatives of electoral associations and of candidates are able to make copies of the electoral rolls.

iii. Rolls of voters permanently resident outside the Russian Federation shall be compiled and updated by the consular institutions of the Russian Federation operating within the relevant countries.

10. The Procedure for the Forming of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation

i. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall consist of a chairman and 20 members.

ii. The chairman of the Central Electoral Commission shall be nominated by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and endorsed by the State Duma, with the consent of the president of the Russian Federation.

iii. Ten members of the Central Electoral Commission shall be elected by the State Duma.

iv. Ten members of the Central Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the president of the Russian Federation.

v. The chairman and no less than half of the members of the Central Electoral Commission should have higher legal education, or a degree in a chosen area of law.

vi. Electoral associations which have registered their all-Federation rolls, shall have a right to send to the Central Electoral Commission their own representatives with a right of having a voice but no vote.

11. The Procedure for the Forming of Constituency and Ward Electoral Commissions

The procedure for the forming of the constituency and ward elections shall be analogous to the procedure for the forming of the Central Electoral Commission.

12. Appeals Against Decisions and Actions of Electoral Commissions

It shall be possible to appeal against decisions and actions of the Central Electoral Commission and of constituency and ward electoral commissions carried out in violation of the law correspondingly to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, or to an appropriate lower court, or to a higher electoral commission in keeping with the procedure established by the laws currently in force.

13. Incompatibility of a Deputy's Status With Official Position or Work in State and Other Bodies

i. Officials in the service of the state, including elected officials, as well as persons who are deputies to another elective authorities and local self-government shall not be deputies to the Federal Assembly.

ii. Officials of the administration, judges, those employed by law and order protection bodies, and servicemen shall not offer themselves as candidate unless they have resigned or ceased to carry out their former official duties in another form within three months of the date of the voting. If such a person is not elected or meets with a refusal to have himself registered, he shall have the right to return to his previous duties in the same post and under the same conditions.

14. All-Federation Lists of Candidate Deputies of the State Duma

i. An electoral association shall present no more than one all- Federation list of candidates to be registered in the Central Electoral Commission. The number of candidates in the all- Federation list shall not exceed the total number of deputy seats in the State Duma by more than 10 percent.

ii. While determining the order of placing the candidates on a list, an electoral association shall have the right to divide it into regional groups of candidates. Here it is obliged to specify to which members or groups of Russian Federation members each of the specified regional groups of candidates corresponds.

iii. The procedure for placing the candidates on a list, as well as the division of the list into regional groups, shall be defined by the electoral association which nominates them and shall not be altered once the list has been registered with the Central Electoral Commission, except when the candidates have dropped out.

iv. No less than 200,000 signatures shall be presented in support of candidates in order for them to be registered on the all- Federation list of candidates. No single member of the Russian Federation shall contribute more than 15 percent of the 200,000 signatures.

v. When signing the list of signatures, the voter shall state his surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, address, the series and number of his identity card as citizen of the Russian Federation, or of his passport. At a demand of a voter, the person collecting the signatures shall be obliged to show him the full all- Federation list of candidates in which the composition and the procedure for the placing of candidates have been certified by the plenipotentiary representatives of the electoral association.

vi. The list of signatures shall be certified by the person who is collecting the signatures, specifying his surname, name and patronymic, his address, the series and number of his identity card or passport, and by the plenipotentiary representative of the electoral association which is putting forward the all-Federation list of candidates.

vii. If not a single all-Federation list of candidates or only one such list is registered within the deadline as established by the law, there shall be no election according to these lists. One- seat constituencies for the elections to the State Duma shall turn into two-seat constituencies.

15. The Nomination of Candidates in a One Seat Constituency for Elections to the State Duma

i. An electoral association which has put forward an all-Federation list of candidates, shall be able to put forward its own candidates in one-seat constituencies for elections to the State Duma. During registration, the name of the nominating electoral association shall be specified.

ii. The nomination of another candidate in a single-seat constituency for elections to the State Duma shall require the collection of signatures of no less than 2 percent of the total number of the constituency voters. The collection of signatures shall be carried out in accordance with points five and six of Article 14 of these Main Provisions.

16. The Nomination of Candidates to the Soviet of the Federation

i. Candidates to the Soviet of the Federation shall be nominated and registered according to the procedure provided for in Article 15 of these Main Provisions. In order to nominate a candidate who is independent of an electoral association which has registered an all- Federation list, the signatures of no less than 2 percent of the total number of constituency voters, or 25,000 signatures, shall be collected in his support.

ii. A candidate for the Soviet of the Federation shall reside permanently on the territory of the republic, kray, oblast, autonomous oblast, autonomous okrug, or town with a Federal status where he is running. The right to be elected shall not be lost if such a person is absent because of duties as an elected official in a Federal authority.

17. The Rights and Duties of Candidates

i. In accordance with the provisions of this law, a candidate shall be ensured the necessary conditions to take part in the election campaign. Expenditure connected with it shall be defrayed from the budget set aside to hold the elections, subject to the limits set by this law.

ii. A candidate shall be able to run for only one chamber of the Federal Assembly and only in one constituency, with the exception set out in point three of this article. A candidate may not be a member of any electoral commission.

iii. A candidate running in a single-seat constituency for election to the State Duma may also be included in one of the all- Federation lists of candidates. In this case, no political allegiance other than the one which served as the basis for the inclusion of the candidate in the all-Federation list of candidates may be specified in his single-seat constituency.

iv. A candidate may not be criminally prosecuted, arrested, or made administratively answerable without the consent of the general procurator of the Russian Federation. Restraints or other criminal procedural measures may be applied to a candidate only by a decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. The institution of proceedings in court against a candidate for administrative offenses shall be suspended.

v. The law specifies the number of trustees of candidates, the conditions under which they are brought in to take part in the election campaign, and their rights and duties.

18. Electoral Campaigning

i. The mass information media partially founded by state bodies, organizations, establishments, and local self-government bodies as well as the mass information media which are only partially financed through state resources or the resources belonging to local self- government bodies are duty bound to ensure equal opportunities for election speeches by all candidates running for the Federal Assembly.

ii. All printed campaign materials should contain information about organizations and persons responsible for their publication. The promulgation of anonymous campaign materials is forbidden.

iii. Election programs and election campaign materials may not contain calls for changing the constitutional system by force or for violating the integrity of the Russian Federation, nor may they stir up social, ethnic, racial, or religious strife.

iv. All public campaigning shall be banned on election day.

v. No results of public opinion polls collected with the forthcoming elections may be published within a period of 10 days prior to the election day.

vi. The participation by state bodies or bodies of local self-government, state establishments, or enterprises in the election campaign for or against candidates is forbidden.

19. Candidates' Election Funds and the Procedure for their Establishment

i. Electoral associations and candidates for the Federal Assembly shall have the right to set up their own election funds in order to finance their election campaign. Such funds may comprise the following resources:

a. Resources set aside for the electoral association or the candidate for the election campaign by the central or, correspondingly, by the constituency electoral commission;

b. The resources of the electoral association or the candidate;

c. Resources set aside for the candidate by the electoral association, party, political movement, or another public association which nominated the candidate;

d. Voluntary donations by physical persons and legal persons.

ii. The sum total of an individual contribution from a physical or legal person in one constituency may not exceed 20 minimum monthly wages as set out by law for the physical persons and 200 minimum monthly wages as set out by law for juridical persons.

iii. The maximum personal monetary contribution by the candidate may not exceed the total annual income of the candidate and the members of his family established on the basis of a declaration of income during one of any four years preceding the year of the elections, presented to the relevant electoral commission.

iv. Electoral associations and candidates who have set up election funds are duty bound to present to the central and constituency electoral commissions, correspondingly, their accounts on how the resources from these funds have been used. These accounts must be published no later than six months after the promulgation of the election results.

20. The Determination of Results in all Federation Constituencies for Elections to the State Duma

i. The Central Electoral Commission shall determine the results of elections in the all-Federation constituency for elections to the State Duma on the basis of the records it receives from the ward electoral commissions, containing detailed data concerning the voting results.

ii. The all-Federation lists of candidates which received less than 5 percent of valid votes shall be excluded from the allocation of deputies' seats.

iii. Each of the remaining all-Federation lists of candidates shall receive a number of deputies' seats in proportion to the number of valid votes it received.

iv. Candidates elected to the State Duma from single-seat constituencies shall be excluded from the all-Federation list of candidates. Deputies' seats shall be given to candidates in strict accordance with their chronological place in the lists. If a list of candidates of an electoral association was divided during registration into regional groups of deputies, then the allocation of seats between these groups within the list shall also be carried out in proportion to the number of votes each list received within a corresponding member of the Russian Federation or their group. Candidates whose names are at the beginning of the relevant regional sections of the general list shall be deemed to have been elected.

v. The Central Electoral Commission shall deem the elections in the all-Federation constituency invalid if less than 25 percent of registered voters take part in the elections.

21. The Determination of Results in a Single-Seat Constituency for Elections to the State Duma

i. The relevant constituency electoral commission shall determine the results of elections in a single-seat constituency (or a two-seat constituency if no elections in the all-Federation constituency have taken place) in elections to the State Duma on the basis of the records it receives from the ward electoral commissions, containing detailed data concerning the voting results.

ii. Candidate(s) who have received the biggest number of valid votes shall be regarded as having been elected.

iii. Elections in a constituency shall be deemed invalid if less than 25 percent of registered voters have taken part in the voting.

22. The Determination of Results in a Constituency for Elections to the Soviet of the Federation

The results of elections in a constituency to the Soviet of the Federation shall be determined in the same way as results of elections to the State Duma.

23. Liability for Violating This Law

Liability for violating the provisions of this law are set out in the criminal code and the code of administrative offenses of the Russian Federation.

24. Filling of Vacant Deputies' Seats

i. If a deputy to the State Duma elected in an all-Federation constituency vacates his seat prematurely, his seat, by a decision of the State Duma, shall be given to the

next candidate from the same all-Federation list (or a regional section of the list). If no candidates remain on the list, the seat shall remain vacant until the next general elections.

ii. If a deputy to the State Duma elected in a single-seat (or two-seat) constituency or a deputy to the Soviet of the Federation elected in a relevant constituency vacate their seats prematurely, the Central Electoral Commission shall set the date for by-elections within three days. If less than nine months remain till the expiry of the term of office of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly, no by-elections shall be held.

25. Temporary Provisions

i. Until the Constitution of the Russian Federation or a special law determines otherwise, the present law will regard as all- Federation political public associations (parties, political movements) those public associations whose rules are registered in keeping with the procedures set out by law and which satisfy the following conditions:

a. They have organizational structures in no less than a quarter of the total members of the Russian Federation;

b. They regard taking part in elections to state bodies and in their activities as their exclusive or main aim. Public organizations taking part in electoral blocs are duty bound to specify in their rules that participation in elections to state bodies is one of the aims of their activities.

ii. Until the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is elected in accordance with this law, the powers of the State Duma concerning elections to the Federal Assembly shall be carried out by the Soviet of the Republic of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

* * *

This draft is being submitted by an intersectional group set up by the Constitutional Conference to discuss the procedure for the elections and represents an altered and abridged version of the draft "Law on Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation," elaborated earlier by a group of people's deputies of the Russian Federation and experts of the Constitutional Commission of the Russian Federation and distributed among the participants of the Constitutional Conference as a pamphlet entitled "The Electoral Law--Material for Discussion." This draft takes into account the provisions of a draft constitution of the Russian Federation (the 26 June 1993 variant) and some critical remarks of the participants in the Constitutional Conference.

Constitution Drafter Alekseyev Interviewed

MK1507110093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 4

[Interview with Sergey Alekseyev, an author of the new draft constitution, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, participant in the constitutional conference, by Nikolay Andreyev; place and date not given: "Constitutional Framework in Place"]

[Text] It is well known what battles have unfolded at the constitutional conference and around it. In the end a new draft constitution was hammered out, coordinated, and approved at the fourth plenary session. Therefore a constitutional framework has been put in place.

How has the Fundamental Law turned out? I put this question to Sergey Sergeyevich Alekseyev, one of the initiators of the new draft constitution, a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and participant in the constitutional conference.

"On the whole, the outcome of the conference is positive," he said. "If the approved draft becomes a constitution, it will be able to address the present-day tasks faced by society. I stress, present-day tasks.

[Andreyev] Does this mean, then, that the Fundamental Law is a law for a transitional period?

[Alekseyev] Apparently so. And this is why I personally am dissatisfied. My colleagues and I hoped that the draft would also be oriented toward the future. In the process of coordination, however, the majority mechanism came into action. We all have come from the past, and some stereotypes are deeply ingrained in our internal social structure which have proved to be insurmountable. But having expressed some dissatisfaction, I nonetheless have to agree with the majority. After all, this is one of the elements of democracy. It is called upon to defend the minority but it should also accept decisions of the majority, without offering resistance, without taking up a stance as a proponent of the ultimate truth. The most important outcome of the conference is probably that it has helped reach a certain national consensus.

[Andreyev] And still, Sergey Sergeyevich, what, in your opinion, are the major flaws of the draft that has just been approved?

[Alekseyev] I was concerned that it now begins with general provisions and not with human rights and freedoms, as we originally expected. Therein consisted the concept of our draft—to start with the main, pivotal things, and then move on to the rest. And the general provisions bear a political imprint—they smack of our former socialist constitutions.

[Andreyev] But the section on human rights and freedoms has been retained after all?

[Alekseyev] Yes, but there is a certain confusion there. In fact the fundamental, inalienable human rights and freedoms and social rights have been equated. And these are totally different notions. Natural human rights may not be affected under any circumstances, while social rights depend on the level of social development, economic condition, and so forth. Therefore many of the provisions here are purely declarative.

[Andreyev] And what power structure is envisioned in the draft? Are we not returning to our "dear" soviets?

[Alekseyev] No, thank God. The draft provides for the president and a bicameral parliament. The main thing that

has been retained is the separation of the functions of the head of state, in other words the president and the executive branch—the Cabinet of Ministers. The executive branch must be independent, which also presupposes high responsibility.

[Andreyev] I know that there was also another point of view: to concentrate the functions of head of the executive branch in the president's hands, on the assumption that reforms would then proceed smoothly and democracy would be protected.

[Alekseyev] It is good that the majority rejected this idea. You can well imagine what it is fraught with if all authority, including "power" ministries, is concentrated in the hands of just one person. It is fraught with dictatorship. At the same time, separation of the functions of head of state and the executive branch prevents the emergence of dictatorship.

[Andreyev] Does this mean that the president will have no influence over the government?

[Alekseyev] Why, the president forms the government, oversees its activity, and defines the main lines of its work, but does not interfere in its day-to-day activity.

[Andreyev] Supposing, Sergey Sergeyevich, that tomorrow the new constitution is adopted. Would Russia begin to make fast progress?

[Alekseyev] No, since without a civil code—and I call it a minor everyday constitution—which would define mechanisms for the protection of human rights and freedoms, and for interrelations of the state and the individual, it is difficult to count on entering a genuinely democratic society. At present a group of outstanding law experts is working on the civil code; I, too, am taking part in this work. The first draft version of the code is almost ready.

[Andreyev] But the constitutional conference was marked by a very hot debate around the issue of the federal structure of future Russia....

[Alekseyev] Indeed, this is a very difficult problem. A number of krays and oblasts are already laying claim to the status of republics and they want to have their own constitution and their own government. I am very alarmed by this trend. In the heat of passion it is overlooked, for example, that such republics as Tatarstan, Bashkiria, and Chechnya have already risen to the level of confederation. If the oblasts and krays get the same rights and also embark down the path of confederation, this would mean the disintegration of Russia.

[Andreyev] Nonetheless, nothing can be done any longer by shouting. What, in your view, is the way out?

[Alekseyev] Russia's federative structure is to be defined in the next constitution, following this transitional one. This is a rough draft but there is no idea whatsoever of Russia's being a federation whose components would be not the numerous krays and oblasts, but large regions: Middle Russia, Greater Volga, the Urals, Siberia, the Far East. Do you know to what I attribute this? To the Russian question, to the revival of the Russian nation. Some 80 percent of the population in Russia are Russians, but they are the most underprivileged, scattered around a huge territory. I am convinced that without the revival of the Russian people as a nation Russia will not be able to revitalize itself.

[Andreyev] What are you proposing? To create the republic of Rus [ancient Russia] and take all the Russians there?

[Alekseyev] Of course, this idea is naive and unrealistic. The Russian people will be able to acquire their clear-cut national identity via Russian ethnic regions about which I have just spoken. In each of these regions Russians even have some semi-ethnic peculiarities brought about by the environment, the climate, contacts with the indigenous population, and so forth. Therefore, as they say, God willed them to live side by side. Historical experience shows that the revival of a nation, of a people, cannot occur without the participation of a state. In Western Europe and in Scandinavia, nations emerged only when national states were formed. For the Russian nation that prototype could be large state- territorial formations. It is a great pity that we have abandoned the Russian question to the national-patriots who are pulling Russia back, toward an empire. At the same time in the rest of world, movement proceeded from an empire via national states to democratic societies.

[Andreyev] Well then, Sergey Sergeyevich, thank you very much. I hope that we shall continue our regular talks on legal subjects....

[Alekseyev] That would be hardly possible now.

[Andreyev] Why so?

[Alekseyev] I am leaving Moscow for good. I am going to my home town—to Yekaterinburg. I want to do some research, move away from active political work, which I have always resisted internally. It is flattering, of course, that NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has ranked me 14th among Russia's 100 leading political figures, but that also worried me: This means that, contrary to my internal aspiration, I have found myself again involved in big-time politics. Having made the difficult decision to move, I acquired internal freedom and now I am in a bright mood. I will remain chairman of the board at the Center for Private Law Studies and apparently for a certain period a member of the presidential council.

[Andreyev] Let me wish you good cheer and every possible success.

[Alekseyev] Thank you. It has been a pleasure for me to have contacts with KURANTY, an honest and truthful paper.

Constitutional Court Issues

Zorkin Favors 'Tough Measures' To Maintain Russia's Unity

LD1507161793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0941 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jul—From his first day in office as chairman of the Constitutional Court, Valeriy Zorkin

spoke out in favor of tough measures to maintain the unity and territorial integrity of Russia, accusing the federal authorities several times of "not intervening" and of not setting the strength of the state against the separatism of individual republics. But in an interview in the latest edition of the weekly paper MOSCOW NEWS he appeared to be softening his approach. Here is the Constitutional Court chairman's answer to the question of whether the transition from a constitutional federation to a treaty federation—as foreseen by inclusion in the new constitution of the Federation Treaty—is not a step towards the break up of Russia: "The issue of whether we need a Federation Treaty could have been argued before it was signed. But we have the treaty, and it would be madness to demand now that it be crossed out of the new constitution. Treaties on limitation of powers (better known under the heading—Federation Treaty) have become a reality and carry the signature of republics, krays, and oblasts .... The signing of this treaty has turned Russia from a constitutional to a constitutional-treaty Federation, and I see this step not as an end in itself, but as a means, a means to cementing Russia."

Despite the separatism emanating from the republics and spreading already to the oblasts, Valeriy Zorkin believes that "it is precisely the republics that can play a role in uniting rather than in breaking up Russia. Unlike when the Soviet Union disintegrated, today it would appear that the heads of republics within Russia are seeing the consequences that such a disintegration can lead to. They can create a real federal state "from below". I think this is actually the way the process is going."

Constitutional Court Hears Ingush, Ossetian Appeals

PM1507114993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA/ITAR-TASS column report: "In the Constitutional Court"]

[Text] A regular meeting of Russian Federation Constitutional Court judges, held 12 July under the chairmanship of V. Zorkin, was devoted to preliminary hearings of petitions connected with the situation in the North Caucasus republics.

In particular, the Constitutional Court opened discussion on requests from Ingush Republic President R. Aushev for verification of a number of legislative acts of 1933-1978 on issues relating to the administrative-territorial structure of the Chechen-Ingush and North Ossetian ASSR's [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics], and also the North Ossetian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet decrees of 6 and 23 March 1993, which contain clauses on the impossibility of cohabitation between Ossetians and Ingush. A North Ossetian SSR Supreme Soviet request for verification of the constitutionality of Articles 3, 4, and 6 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples" was discussed at the same session.

To Examine Appeals on Yeltsin Edicts

PM1507125193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Constitutional Court press service report: "Constitutional Court Is Not Off on Vacation"]

[Text] Preparation is being completed in the Constitutional Court for examining at a session appeals on the checking of the constitutionality of a number of normative acts.

In particular it is planned to examine the appeal from the Russian fund for the defense of citizens' rights, legality, and law and order, which is asking for a check on the constitutionality of the Russian Federation president's 14 August 1992 edict "on putting into operation the system of privatization vouchers in the Russian Federation."

There will also be a check on the constitutionality of the Russian Federation president's 15 March 1993 edict "on the reforming of military structures and border and internal troops on the territory of the Russian Federation's North Caucasus region and state support for the cossacks" and his 15 August 1992 edict "on the organization of the management of the Russian Federation electrical energy complex under the conditions of privatization."

Political Issues

Shaposhnikov on Current Activities, Position

PM1507121193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Interview with Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov (Yeltsin's nominee for secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council) by Boris Slavin; place and date not given: "Marshal of Aviation Dangling Between Branches of Power"]

[Text] Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov, former commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, has granted an interview to Boris Slavin, editor of the PRAVDA politics desk.

[Slavin] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, what is your position at the moment? Are you acting as secretary of the Security Council?

[Shaposhnikov] Since I have not been ratified by the Supreme Soviet but on the other hand the president's edict has not been repealed, I am simply keeping up with this sector of work.

[Slavin] The old sector or the new one?

[Shaposhnikov] The new one. I am very keen on the idea of holding a scientific and practical conference on problems of the Russian Federation's regional security in order to elaborate an appropriate concept. So within a week we want to assemble Russia's best minds, leaders of scientific institutions, ministries, and departments dealing with questions of law and order, defense, foreign and domestic

policy, ecology, economic security, and so forth, and work on the concept of national security.

[Slavin] On what basis are you now working?

[Shaposhnikov] Whether it is a public or a personal commission is a secondary matter. The most imporant thing is to act. Of course, there is a problem. I don't want to feel I am in the position of having been appointed by one branch of power but not approved by another.

[Slavin] Tell me, does your former post of leader of the CIS Armed Forces no longer exist? And is there leadership of the CIS strategic forces?

[Shaposhnikov] I think not, because, when you look at the position of Ukraine and the position of Kazakhstan, which takes its cue from the way Ukraine behaves, it is very difficult to say that there are unified CIS strategic forces.

[Slavin] What is your view of events surrounding Sevastopol?

[Shaposhnikov] I am very sorry that the states in question, the defense ministers, and other leaders did not take the route of the concept that I originated: The Black Sea Fleet should be united and work for the benefit of the entire CIS.

Cabinet Leaders' Activities Reported 14 Jul

PM1507115993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Text] **Meetings, Talks, Trips**

Russian Government Head Viktor Chernomyrdin discussed with the president details of his trip to the FRG and his forthcoming negotiations there.

First Deputy Premier Oleg Lobov is in Novosibirsk. He focused attention on questions concerning this major industrial and scientific region's economic development, as well as on problems industrial enterprises are facing.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray flew out to Sochi for a conference of leaders of the organs of the executive and representative branches of power of the North Caucasus republics, krays, and oblasts. Questions concerning the political situation and security in this region are being examined at the conference.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays participated in a session of the Russian Federation Government Presidium during the morning. In the afternoon he met with [U.S.] Heritage Foundation President Edwin Feulner. After that the vice premier held a conference at which observations and proposals for the privatization program were examined.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin met with Russian and foreign journalists at a press conference on the problem of stepping up economic cooperation between Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine within the framework of the CIS. In the morning the vice premier, like his fellow members of the Cabinet of Ministers, took part in the session of the Council of Ministers Presidium.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov met with Yaroslavl Oblast Administration Head Anatoliy Lisitsyn. Afterwards Boris Fedorov gave an interview to the newspaper ARGUMENTY I FAKTY. In the evening, the vice premier held a session of the commission on credit policy.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha arrived in New York to take part in the UN Conference on Fishing in Open Waters. The conference is being held due to the world community's concern over the unmonitored catching of fish and other marine resources in the waters of the world's oceans. Taking into consideration the exhaustion of fish reserves in the central part of the Bering Sea as a result of fishing by foreign boats and the threat of a similar situation being repeated in the Sea of Okhotsk, the Russian delegation led by Aleksandr Zaveryukha intends to try and get recognition of the coastal states' special rights with regard to stocks of fish which migrate seasonally from the economic zone to areas of the open sea adjoining it.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov met with the deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on the Health Service. Then the vice premier held a session of the commission to examine disagreements over the privatization program for 1993.

From a Survey of Letters to the President and Government

There are more than 10 areas of instability which are causing most alarm among the population of Russia. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers Press Center is presenting these figures which were based on a survey of letters received by the Russian Federation president and government.

So, such factors as price increases, the rise in crime, the low level of social security, the housing problem, and the lack of order in the country, are influential in determining citizens' living conditions and their general psychological state, causing them great alarm. What is more, practically the whole of the country's population mentions such factors as prices and crime.

Council of Experts

A council of experts has been formed under the Altay Kray Administration to carry out a more detailed analysis of economic and social programs for developing the kray. Scholars with great experience of work in the given fields, entrepreneurs with a good track record, and the most qualified specialists from state enterprises make up the council of experts.

Local Authorities

Novosibirsk Oblast Administration Head Vitaliy Mukha has signed a directive on forming the "Novosibneftegaz" Joint-Stock Company to accelerate extraction of oil and casing-head gas in the oblast's northern region, taking the interests of the oblast into consideration as much as possible. Many of Novosibirsk Oblast's enterprises and organizations, and if necessary Russian and foreign industrial and investment companies, will be participating in it.

Corruption

The activities of a group of criminals have been halted in Sverdlovsk Oblast; the group constists of seven leaders of the "Elektrokhimpribor" Combine and the "Stabis" Limited Partnership Science and Production Company, who stole isotopes and exported them illegally. Some 100 grams of isotope worth $1 million were confiscated. Property has been seized worth more than 150 billion rubles.

Activities Reported 16 Jul

PM1607130793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Text] **Meetings, Trips, Talks**

Russian Government Head Viktor Chernomyrdin is continuing his visit to the FRG. He is accompanied on his trip by First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov and Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays. During the Russian premier's meeting with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl they touched on questions of Russian-German economic relations, in particular supplies of Russian gas to Germany and the payment of Russian debts to German industry.

In Bonn the government head signed two Russian-German accords in the transport sphere—on international motor vehicle travel and on air travel. The first document incorporates a specific mechanism for organizing the transportation of passengers and freight and the second authorizes an unlimited number of air companies in both states to make regular international flights.

Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, met with representatives of the Russian media 15 July.

Attention was focused on questions of improving conditions for the distribution of newspapers and improving equipment and on problems of preserving the media's viability in market conditions.

During the meeting it was proposed that a "Press Bank" be set up to give practical financial assistance to the media on pretty advantageous terms for the editorial boards. Chief editors, representing various media, could become members of a "Press Bank" oversight council.

The relevant government documents will be prepared on the results of the meeting, after they have first been agreed with its participants.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets met with Gaetano di Rosa, president of the Italian "FATA" firm. At the meeting they discussed questions of deepening Russian-Italian economic relations. Then the first vice premier opened the motor show at the Exhibition Center on Krasnaya Presnya. Oleg Soskovets' evening ended with an interview for "Ostankino" television.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, who is in the PRC, is focusing attention on questions of strengthening Russian-Chinese relations, in particular developing border trade between the two countries.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin has been discussing the comprehensive development of Krasnoyarsk Kray at a meeting with leaders of Krasnoyarsk industrial enterprises and scientific centers. Aleksandr Shokhin has also attended a session there of the Russian-Mongolian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov met with Tuva Republic Vice President Aleksey Melnikov. Then he tackled current matters.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha is continuing his work at the UN conference on fishing in the open sea, which is being held in New York. He is head of the Russian delegation at the conference.

Agreements

The governments of Ukraine and Russia signed an agreement fixing the prices of natural gas supplied by Russia to Ukraine. The price is set at 42,000 rubles [R] per 1,000 cubic meters of natural gas as of 1 June 1993, rising to $80 by 1 December 1993.

Calculations will be made in rubles at the rate set by the Russian Federation Central Bank on the day before the statement of account.

Documents

In line with a government directive, in the third quarter of this year the Russian Agriculture Ministry will be allocated R156 million from the Russian Government contingency fund for the elimination of the aftermath of emergency situations to carry out preventive measures against foot-and-mouth disease.

As of the 1993/94 academic year, departments of military and emegency medicine are to be set up in line with a government decree in connection with the organization of emergency medical services in Russian Federation state medical higher educational establishments.

Rutskoy Responds to Corruption Allegations

LD1507230893

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1810 GMT on 15 July carries a 60-minute recorded interview with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by correspondent Andrey Karaulov.

Karaulov reminds Rutskoy of the allegations that Rutskoy was involved in major corruption cases, which were put forward by Dmitriy Yakubovskiy during his program the week before.

Rutskoy replies: "Frankly speaking, I had a suspicion that this might be a conspiracy. I wondered what purpose was in mind regarding all that was being interpreted. This is why I asked for a live broadcast—so that I could answer in person the questions you asked of Yakubovskiy, using documents this time."

Karaulov relates in detail the story of a transfer of $20 million from a state agency—Agrokhim—to a private company, which was carried out in 1991 on Rutskoy's instructions. He says this transfer was supposed to finance a project of the Rebirth foundation for supplying baby food to Russia, but in actual fact the money was taken out of Russia, never to return.

Rutskoy admits that he is not familiar with the exact details of the companies involved but insists that he had nothing to do with the actual financial operation and the abuses ensuing from it.

Rutskoy and Karaulov then discuss various minor documents related to the case. Rutskoy stresses that there should be a proper investigation by responsible bodies if there are accusations against him or any other official, and not just speculations in the media.

Rutskoy says: "If I had not been removed from the post of the chairman of the interdepartmental commission, or if proper conditions had been created and money had been allocated to organize the proper work of the interdepartmental commission, there can be no doubt that the investigation of the activities of the Rebirth foundation and other organizations would have been completely objective."

Karaulov asks for further explanations regarding the activities of the Rebirth foundation. Rutskoy replies: "Rutskoy is no more and no less connected with this foundation than Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin—in exactly the same way. He was the president of the foundation. The foundation operated in accordance with a program approved by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and the Russian Prime Minister Ivan Stepanovich Silayev."

Rutskoy continues: "Please remember, my dear sirs, once and for all: I have never violated the law and never will—never ever. You will have to apologize, because all this is lies, dirty lies. None of this is true".

Rutskoy and Karaulov agree that corruption should be investigated only by people whose own hands are clean.

Karaulov then asks Rutskoy if it is true that he telephoned Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze two or three months before and had threatened to order an air squadron to bomb Tbilisi unless Georgia immediately changed its policy in South Ossetia. Karaulov says he learned this from Dzhaba Ioseliani and that Shevardnadze had confirmed it.

Rutskoy answers: "Yes, I did phone, and I did say this. Only the conversation was different. Boris Nikolayevich was on a foreign trip when a massed artillery shelling of Tskhinval was taking place. I phoned Shevardnadze and said: Esteemed Eduard Amvrosiyevich, if you do not order the shelling of Tskhinval stopped, I will command a squadron to deliver a strike on the weapons involved in the massed shelling of the town. I did say this. The measures I take to protect people are my personal affair."

Karaulov produces a document suggesting that Rutskoy gave instructions in 1991 to arrest Dzhokhar Dudayev, the would-be president of Chechnya. Rutskoy refuses to give any explanations on the grounds that this is a secret document, obtained by the correspondent by illegal means.

Karaulov then discusses with Rutskoy some of his former aides and associates who turned out to be ex-KGB officials, defected abroad, or got involved in financial crimes. Rutskoy says that he had no regrets about working with KGB people because they were qualified experts in various fields. He says that drawing public attention to this fact was simply one of the propaganda ploys levelled at him.

Karaulov asks Rutskoy why he did not resign as vice president and join the open opposition since he disagreed with Yeltsin so often and so bitterly. Rutskoy replies: "First of all, like Boris Nikolayevich, I was elected by the citizens of the Russian Federation. We were on the same voting list. I know that the president received many votes thanks to the vice president. There are many like-minded people who support me and agree with my standpoint, my views, and convictions. To resign now would mean to betray these people, to desert them. You can be in the opposition if you live in a civilized state, but we are still a long way from that. I have no less right to be a vice president than the president has to be a president."

Karaulov quotes contradictory remarks made by Rutskoy in the past about Yeltsin—some acutely critical, others favorable. Rutskoy replies that journalists were not tracing inconsistencies in Yeltsin's statements because there is no political demand for this at the moment. He says: "But when, or if, our power system changes, you will get that kind of political demand, and you will then dance to the tune of that demand." He adds: "At least I have never been a secretary of an oblast committee of the CPSU or a member of the Politburo of the CPSU. I was even expelled from the party for trying to persuade the Russian Communist Party that it should reform itself as society reforms itself."

Karaulov and Rutskoy debate whether people still have faith in Rutskoy or not. Rutskoy concludes: "If God permits us to live another five years, you will see what assessment will be given to those who have destroyed the Soviet Union—which was respected by the whole world and ensured a balance of power and stability in the world."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on Nuclear Centers

PM1507133993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 6

[Report by Vitaliy Kovalenko: "Pride Which Has Become a Burden"]

[Text] A great achievement: They have finally succeeded in extracting a whole 1 billion rubles to finance a nuclear center 00 Arzamas-16. The pride of Russia—its science and production complexes which operate 10 times more efficiently than similar U.S. structures (in terms of the prime cost of output, at any rate)—are today dragging out a miserable existence. The average wages for staffers of the

all-Russian experimental physics scientific research institute rank 21st in the city—for instance, workers of the local sobering up station receive twice as much.

It was with these routine problems that the "roundtable" began at the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA editorial office devoted to the position and prospects of the country's largest nuclear centers—Arzamas-16 and Chelyabinsk-70. And that was no accident, because daily routine means the people who make up their main resource. And in the estimation of specialists this resource is entirely comparable with the Tyumen oil deposits. Only it has turned out no one needs it. Moreover, it has become a tiresome burden round the government's neck.

The following nuclear scientists took part in the discussion of the problem: Vladimir Belugin, director of the Arzamas-16 center; Radiy Ilkayev, first deputy scientific leader of the program; chief designer Stanislav Boronin; Sergey Kholin, leader of the labor collective council; Georgiy Ignatov, chairman of the Chelyabinsk-70 city soviet of people's deputies; and representatives of the Supreme Soviet—Aleksey Adrov, chairman of the commission for transport, communications, information, and space; Alvin Yeremin, chairman of the committee for industry and energy; Valeriy Menshchikov, deputy chairman of the committee for questions of ecology and the rational use of natural resources; Valeriy Skripchenko, deputy chairman of the commission for the budget, plans, taxes, and prices; and Galina Zinovyeva, specialist on the committee for questions of the work of the soviets of people's deputies and the development of self-administration.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA will publish a detailed report of the roundtable in one of its next few issues.

Survey Reveals Russians' Views on Issues, Leaders

MK1607093893 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 34, 16 Jul 93 (signed to press 15 Jul) p 2

[Dmitriy Kuznets report under the "Experiments" rubric: "Total Chaos in the Mirror of Sociology. Russians Will Back Rutskoy, But Vote for Yeltsin"]

[Text] On 14 July, Aleksandr Oslon and Igor Klyamkin, heads of the "Public Opinion" fund, published the results of a sociological survey, "Sociopolitical Field of Parties and Movements" conducted in March though April.

Respondents in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and 11 regions in Russia were split by the pollsters into seven groups depending on their attitudes to "the two key problems of the post-Communist movement" in Russia—the choice of an economic system (private or state- run), and the choice of a state system (revival of the USSR, integration within the CIS, or a Russian national state).

Two times three is six, which is why, Mr. Klyamkin believes, the country's entire population is divided into: 1) imperial socialists (11 percent), 2) CIS socialists (19 percent), 3) national socialists (13 percent), 4) imperial capitalists (3 percent), 5) CIS capitalists (11 percent), and, correspondingly, 6) national capitalists (8 percent). The seventh group (35 percent), designated as "reserve" in the survey, comprises citizens who find it hard to say where they stand one or both "key problems." In the opinion of the sociologists, they are precisely those who stayed away from the referendum.

Mr. Klyamkin puts down the prevalence of various "socialists" to the tendency toward society's "socialization." It is more pronounced among the needy, senior citizens, people of a low educational standard, and so forth. Geographically, they prevail in Kuzbass (where Oblast Soviet Chairman Tuleyev enjoys stable popularity), in Nizhniy Novgorod (where, according to the survey, society is generally highly radicalized), and in the conservative Stavropol Kray.

Another tendency over recent months is the growth of the group with "national priorities" of not only "national socialists" but also radical liberals.

The rather conventional division of society enabled a no less conventional determination of spheres of influence of the various parties. It was found that the population has the greatest affection for Civic Union: more than 30 percent of those who are going to vote at all (20 percent of the total number) in all the groups are prepared to vote for it. Mr. Klyamkin attributes this popularity of Civic Union to the vice president's charisma (surveys indicate that its break with Travkin, and Volskiy's withdrawal into the shadows did not affect the bloc's popularity). According to the poll results, the majority of "imperial socialists" (17 percent of whom are ready to vote for the Communist Party of the Russian Federation) want Rutskoy and the communists to join hands.

It seems that people in Russia are not too good at seeing through ideological niceties: nearly a third of "imperial socialists" support the policy of privatization. My fellow citizens are more guided by their likes and dislikes of individuals. Thus, the charismatic Rutskoy can only be stopped by the even more charismatic Yeltsin should he lead one of the parties. The more so because his reserves are vast: nearly half of those ready to vote for Civic Union back Yeltsin....

Economic Issues

All-Russian Economic Conference Plans Under Way

LD1507173193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yegor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—Chairman of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov and chairman of the Council Of Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin have been endorsed co-chairmen of the organizing committee for the preparation for the all-Russian economic conference, scheduled for July 27-28, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Parliament Vladimir Ispravnikov said on Thursday

addressing an economic conference organized by the Committee for Economic Reforms and Property of the Russian Parliament jointly with the social association "The Revival of the Economy."

Ispravnikov said that participants in the all-Russian conference are expected to work in eight sections and thoroughly discuss problems of monetary, credit, taxation, budgetary, industrial, agrarian and social spheres, the foreign economic policy, issues of regional economy and support of new economic structures.

Prior to the conference it was recommended to hold a number of regional meetings. An extended session of the Council of Ministers is expected to be held upon the completion of the session to discuss recommendations made during the conference.

Today's meeting of deputies, economists and representatives of regions, public movements and political parties, held under the motto "How to Survive and Revive Russia's Economy" was part of preparations for the all-Russian conference. Its participants analyzed the existing socio-economic situation in the country and made proposals for coming out of the crisis. They stressed the importance of a clear-cut economic concept, proceeding from the realities. They believe that the task of priority importance is to prevent the production decline whatever the cost may be and strengthen state control over key industries, such as the mining industry and the fuel and energy sector.

Shumeyko on Promoting Small Business

PM1607104193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 3

[Abbreviated version of speech by First Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko at the second international congress on "Small and Medium-Sized Businesses in Russia"; place and date not given: "There Should Be Active Support for Small Businesses"—carried as part of DELO supplement]

[Text] In today's world the rapid emergence of small and medium-sized businesses is as a rule accompanied by active support from the government. It seems to me that the Russian Government has also recently paid serious attention to the problems of small and medium-sized businesses.

A decision of the Council of Ministers of 11 May 1993 adopted a package of measures to develop and give state support to small business in the Russian Federation as one of the most important areas of the economic reform. The government has identified a series of priority sectors in which the development of small business will permit the swiftest and most effective resolution of a number of acute socioeconomic problems and will enjoy "most-favored" status.

The orientation of government policy toward supporting small and medium-sized businesses certainly does not mean that other forms of enterprise will not develop.

The government regards its immediate task not as assisting each individual entrepreneur but as creating a "favorable environment" in which it is easier for small businesses to be created and to develop. This primarily involves developing a specialized financial, credit, information, consultation, and personnel infrastructure oriented toward the requirements of small businesses. The basic thrust of our work in this area can be seen in the aforementioned package of urgent measures to develop small business in the Russian Federation and is to be fleshed out in a Federal Program of State Support for Small Business to be completed by August 1993.

This program also has great political significance as it contains specific mechanisms for involving in business activities various social strata for which "their own business" could be a real help in the complex economic situation of the transitional period—I have in mind young people, women, servicemen, and, most important, those who might lose their jobs.

I would like in particular to dwell on the question of financial support for small businesses. Experience shows that it is the lack of financial resources which is one of the basic problems both for existing small businesses and for people who are just setting out on creating their own businesses. Taking into consideration the high inflation rate in the country, the costliness of credit, and the underdevelopment of the financial infrastructure, there have to be special measures giving financial support to entrepreneurs. A Council of Ministers decree set up a Fund To Support Business and Develop Competition as a specialized, noncommercial, state organization to finance measures to develop first and foremost small and medium-sized businesses. The federal budget provides for the appropriations to the fund necessary to get its activities under way. At present work to organize the fund is approaching completion, and it will soon actually get down to work. It is assumed that the fund will be able to provide several basic forms of financial support for entrepreneurs: grant financial aid to enterprises and entrepreneurs, act as a guarantor for credit from commercial banks, take on a shared role in developing infrastructure facilities, and independently finance various projects.

The federal business support fund has not been created in a vacuum. In setting it up, very serious attention was paid to the experience provided by the activities of foreign countries' specialized state financial institutions for the support of small businesses and, what is particularly important, the experience of similar funds at work in various regions of Russia. This experience shows that in the republics, krays, and oblasts where the organs of representative and executive power are oriented toward supporting private business, people see the development of business as one of the main mechanisms for the region's economic development, and it is proving possible to resolve financial, organizational, and legal problems and to give small enterprises some financial support. More than 1 billion rubles [R] in budget funds were earmarked to support business in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, around R300 million in Chuvashia, and R500 million in Karelia.

It is those regions where the local authorities assist entrepreneurs which are characterized by the highest rates of growth in the number of private enterprises.

At the present stage of the economic reform, the role of relations between the government and entrepreneurs' associations is rapidly gaining in importance. The point is that the various types of unions and associations of entrepreneurs elaborate the median viewpoint of the entrepreneurial circles of the renascent class in Russian society on which the government would like to rely in the economic reform. On the other hand, entrepreneurs, by entering into dialogue with the government, can secure the adoption of mutually acceptable state decisions. The activities of the Russian Federation Government Business Development Council formed on 30 May 1993 should, in my view, help in setting up such a dialogue. It is still too early to talk about actual results from the council's work, but I hope that it will prove itself in the near future.

Economy Ministry 'Cleansed Itself of Economists'

MK1607083093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 34, 16 Jul 93 (signed to press 15 Jul) p 1

[Mikhail Leontyev report: "Russian Federation Economy Ministry Has Cleansed Itself of Economists"]

[Text] Ivan Materov, first deputy economy minister, who once supervised the defense complex, has been transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations in the same capacity of first deputy minister. He will now apparently supervise weapons exports. Thus, Oleg Lobov, the new minister of economy, has wound up the personnel purge in the institution he heads. The last of the "new" deputies who came to the Economy Ministry when Yevgeniy Saburov was in charge have now left it.

The Economy Ministry, now manned exclusively by former State Planning Committee chiefs (with the exception of one lyric writer hailing from Sakhalin island) and led by an experienced party official capable of taking any oblast (and a sphere of knowledge for that matter) into the lead in the production of eggs, is ready to tackle the tasks set by Oleg Lobov.

Military & Media Issues

Grachev Conducts Air Defense Exercise 15 Jul

PM1507162793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Ivanov report: "Russian Federation Defense Minister Conducts Exercise in Air Defense Forces"]

[Text] On 15 July Army General Pavel Grachev conducted a comprehensive exercise of air defense forces and systems to repulse an air attack.

Questions concerned with the interaction of all air defense forces and systems of the branches of the Armed Forces and tasks to provide cover for the country's most important facilities were rehearsed in the course of the exercise.

Defense Ministry Creates New Aide Positions

MK1307094093 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 14, 7 Jul 93 (signed to press 6 Jul) p 2

[Unattributed report in "SIXTH-FLOOR AGENCY" column: "What is Behind the Creation of New Posts in the Russian Defense Ministry Apparatus"]

[Text] A number of structural changes have reportedly been carried out within the apparatus of the Russian Defense Ministry following Pavel Grachev's orders.

Thus, new positions of Defense Ministry aides with extended powers have been set up. Accountable to them will be, correspondingly: the assistant on international cooperation—the Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation, the International Contractual Department, and the National Center for Minimizing the Nuclear Threat; the assistant on military policy and military organizational development—the Research Center for Military Policy and Military Organizational Development, the Military Scientific Directorate, and the Directorate for Military Construction and Reforms. Yet another Defense Ministry aide will oversee financial and economic activity, which, according to independent military experts, points to a complicated behind-the-scenes struggle within the Russian Federation Defense Ministry apparatus.

According to the most conservative estimates, the damage caused by the "commercial" activity of top army generals in the last six months has exceeded 1 billion rubles. Inspections with the participation of First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin have revealed serious financial malpractices on the part of the Navy Command, the Main Automobile Directorate, the Air Force Command, and also abuses in the process of procuring arms for air defense forces.

The publication of the inspection results has provoked sharp discontent among the top brass. The so-called "old guard" of military leaders, with the help of the Defense Ministry's Military Scientific Directorate, where pension-age generals "settle down," has prepared a draft project for resubordinating inspectorate services to the new assistant minister on financial and economic activity, proposing their "own man" for this post. Sources point out that this draft was prepared so quickly and in such secrecy that the majority of officials at the Russian Defense Ministry did not learn about it until after Grachev had issued a directive on the apparatus reshuffles.

Colonel General Vladimir Babyev, retired (age 69, II-group invalid, former chief of the Defense Ministry's central financial directorate), has been appointed head of the consolidated inspectorate and is effectively in charge of the Defense Ministry's entire financial and economic activity. Among top generals, Babyev is regarded as a lenient, flexible man who does not run into conflict with his boss and knows how "to hold his tongue."

Military experts believe that in this way the top army generals have reached their goal: They have placed all

Defense Ministry inspection services under their control so as to preclude any unwanted leakage of information about their "commercial" activity.

General Notes Manpower Shortage in Armed Forces

LD1507131793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1221 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—The Russian Armed Forces are only staffed 51 percent of the needed privates and sergeants, and would need 700,000 to reach full strength, deputy head of the main mobilizing administration Lieutenant-General Vladimir Bondartsev said at a briefing at the Defense Ministry. He added that, as a whole, the spring call-up has been fulfilled with 170,000 recruits, but this is far less than needed.

According to the general, 130-150 thousand recruits will join the Armed Forces in the fall call-up, but about 320 thousand soldiers and sergeants will go into the reserves after serving their terms. If this continues, Bondartsev noted, then by January 1994, the Armed Forces will have only 30-35 percent of the needed manpower. With this few people, the Armed Forces will not be able to carry out their normal duties.

As special measures, the Defense Ministry plans to make it more difficult to get deferments, in part by lowering medical requirements, allowing it to call up approxiametely 300 thousand people, and by students calling up around one million. The Defense Ministry is also against parliament immediately passing the law "on alternative service" and urges a postponement of its review until 1994-1995, since 100 thousand young men could avoid military service if the law is put into effect.

It was also noted at the press conference that volunteers on a contract basis (109 thousand in 1993) did not have a large effect on the Armed Forces' strength. The call-up remains the basic way to fill the Army, since attracting more volunteers "collides" with the lack of money. The Defense Ministry asked the government to attract 50 thousand more volunteers, which will cost an additional 12 billion roubles.

Notes Shortfall of Over 700,000

PM1607134193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By A. Filippov and D. Malyshev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] At a Russian Defense Ministry briefing today, General Bondartsev acquainted journalists with the results of the spring draft.

[Filippov] Some 170,000 young men have joined the Army and Navy. This is 16 percent of the potential number of draftees. The remaining 1.6 million persons of draft age are making use of deferment of military service in Russia. As a result of this there is a shortfall of more than 700,000 servicemen in our units at the moment. This number is expected to increase further. The coming fall draft is causing special concern at the Ministry of Defense. At that time 220,000 privates and seargents will leave the Army. And it is expected that they will be replaced by only 150,000 draftees.

Military leaders believe that contract service will not change this alarming situation since the state lacks the necessary funds. They have proposed that the possibility to defer military service, of which higher educational establishment and technical school students are availing themselves, be suspended for the next two-three years.

Ostankino Calls Amendments to Media Law 'Censorship'

LD1507195293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1933 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—In the opinion of the managers of the Ostankino Television Company, amendments made to the law on the mass media by the Russian parliament today "actually mean the establishment of the all-Russian "party of censorship."

"The establishment of the so-called Federal Councils for ensuring the freedom of speech at state-owned television and radio companies means that in all Russia's regions, councils of people's deputies in fact, are setting up monitoring councils which will take all state- owned radio and tv companies under their control," says a statement made by the press service of Ostankino Television Company on Thursday.

Leaders of the Ostankino Company believe that today's resolution adopted by the Russian parliament disavows the law on the mass media and poses a direct threat to the "fourth power."

"This will lead to the programme 'A Parliamentray Hour,' regularly shown on tv, being turned into 'A Parlimentary Day'", said Kiril Ignatyev, acting chairman of the Ostankino Television Company.

"Amending the law on the mass media actually undermines further work on the law on radio and tv broadcasting in the Russian Federation, which is being developed by the Russian parliament itself," the statement said.

Supreme Soviet

Deputies on Tajikistan; Kobets on 'Hostilities'

LD1507221393

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1935 GMT on 15 July carries a 15-minute "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session" program.

Supreme Soviet chairman Khasbulatov gives the floor to Deputy Defense Minister Konstantin Kobets, who speaks about the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, saying in particular: "In the conditions of the activization of military actions in Tajikistan, the Collegium of the Defence

Ministry of the Russian Federation approaches the Supreme Soviet with the following proposals:

"1. The Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation be allowed, in agreement with the government of the Republic of Tajikistan, to bring on its territory additional forces and equipment;

"2. The Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation be given the right to make decisions on the combat use of the units and sub-units of the Russian troops in the hostilities zones;

"3. A constant interaction be maintained with the group of the border troops of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Tajikistan aimed at observing the regime of guarding and protecting the state border; and

"4. The parliaments of the member-states of the collective security treaty be approached so that military aid be provided to the Republic of Tajikistan.

"A relevant decision on using armed forces can be adopted exclusively by the Supreme Soviet, therefore we ask you to support the proposal."

Khasbulatov, commenting on Kobets' speech, states: "Suddenly it turns out that the only body which makes decisions at these critical moments is the Supreme Soviet. But when there is no tragedy everyone makes decisions except the Supreme Soviet. Excuse me, but it is obvious that this is an attempt to load us with possible consequences."

Deputy Ivan Altukhov then introduces a bill on the fundamentals of the land legislation. He speaks about progress made in the implementation of the land reform, pointing out that the land has been transferred to peasants' ownership. The bill is passed.

An unidentified deputy introduces the Russian-Tajik treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance. He advocates ratification of the treaty.

Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov then speaks on the four agreements of the treaty dealing with cooperation between Russia and Tajikistan in the military sphere and on the legal status of Russian armed forces stationed on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan. The treaty is ratified.

An unidentified deputy states that on 2 July this year the Supreme Soviet adopted the draft law on introducing amendments and additions to the law on the media and the temporary provision of the federal council to guarantee the freedom of speech on state television and radio broadcasting. After being discussed in committees and commissions both drafts were presented at the Supreme Soviet for consideration.

Deputy Nosovets calls on the deputies not to adopt the law as it stands. Another unidentified deputy speaks in favor of adopting the law. The law is passed. A temporary provision is put to the vote and is passed. Deputy Nosovets proposes that the deputies vote again on the provision and vote against it. The provision is passed as a basis.

Reform Coalition Deputy Molostvov says not all parliament's factions would join the censorship committee set up by the Supreme Soviet.

Deputy Baburin says the provision should be adopted, while Deputy Nosovets asks the deputies to vote against the provision. The provision is passed.

Further on Kobets Address

PM1507181593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 3

[Vladimir Yermolin report under the general heading "Russian Border Guards Killed...": "Our Correspondent Reports From Russian Federation Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] "As of 0900 today, 15 July, fighting has been under way in the 11th Border Post's sector for five hours..."

That was how Army General Konstantin Kobets, the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's representative in parliament, began his address to members of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. After which he read out to parliamentarians an appeal from the Armed Forces leadership:

"At a time of intensifying hostilities in Tajikistan, the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Collegium proposes that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet permit the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, by agreement with the Tajik Government, to send additional forces and hardware onto its territory, and to give the Russian Federation Defense Ministry the right to make the decision on the combat use of units and subunits of Russian troops in the area of the hostilities, and to maintain constant cooperation with the Russian Federation group of border guards in the Republic of Tajikistan in order to observe the regime for the defense and protection of the state border."

Army Gen. Kobets reminded deputies that events are escalating and that every hour of delay would mean more casualties (as was stated Wednesday, 14 July). The military are entirely prepared to act, but, in accordance with the law "On Defense" (Article 4), "the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet makes the decisions on the use of Russian Federation Armed Forces outside the Russian Federation in accordance with its international obligations."

The situation seems to be very clear, and Ruslan Khasbulatov, who was chairing the session, noted that the decision should be made. But he immediately moved the discussion back into the usual direction—starting to criticize the Foreign Ministry and Andrey Kozyrev personally for their "weak diplomacy" toward Afghanistan, and ultimately proposed noting the unsatisfactory work of the Foreign Ministry in a separate paragraph [punkt]. You got the unambiguous impression that the tragedy currently building in Tajikistan had inspired certain deputies to launch another attack against their political opponents.

Undoubtedly, the events on the Tajik-Afghan border raise a lot of questions about the Foreign Ministry and the other state institutions responsible for Russia's security.

But the main thing today is to halt the aggression and take sobering measures against the bandits. The Russian Armed Forces are more than capable of doing this. The Army is ready to swiftly and effectively carry out its mission.

Just before this issue was put to bed we learned that the Supreme Soviet was instructing the government to "take the necessary measures to protect the lives and safety of our fellow countrymen using means appropriate to the circumstances."

More on Debate on Tajikistan

PM1607092593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Aleksey Vorobyev report under the rubric "Sixth Session of the Supreme Soviet": "Conflict on Border Needs Urgent and Precise Decisions"]

[Text] The morning joint session on 15 July began with deputies working on the final text of the Supreme Soviet statement on events on the Tajik-Afghan border, discussion of which began the day before. According to the Defense Ministry spokesman's report, combat operations in these areas are continuing and as a result civilians and the Russian border troops defending them are continuing to die. In this connection the Defense Ministry Collegium is proposing that border detachments be reinforced with subunits of regular troops.

Intentionally or not, the adoption of such a decision could broaden and deepen the armed conflict, so before making this grave choice the parliamentarians wanted to know the view of events taken by the Russian Foreign Ministry and Supreme Commander in Chief Boris Yeltsin.

It transpired that the Russian Foreign Ministry has not yet formulated its position on the events in question.

Meanwhile a special Russian parliamentary delegation has already flown out to the Tajik-Afghan border.

Before drawing conclusions and adopting decisions, the deputies asked for additional information.

As a result parliamentarians adopted a statement in connection with the events on the Tajik-Afghan border. The statement says that the Russian Supreme Soviet views with great alarm and profound indignation the latest provocative actions by armed extremists on the Tajik-Afghan border. The treacherous attack by military-terrorist groups has led to considerable casualties among Russian and Tajik servicemen and civilians. The Russian Supreme Soviet draws the Afghan leadership's attention to the impermissibility of aggressive attacks from its territory, which threaten to seriously complicate the military-political situation in the region. The Russian side expects all possible measures to be adopted urgently so as to halt the military provocations on the southern borders of the CIS member states and prevent further such actions. At the same time the Supreme Soviet deems it expedient to resume interstate talks with the Afghan leadership so as to bring these actions to an end.

In addition, the statement draws attention to the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan signed in Moscow 25 May 1993.

The Russian Supreme Soviet instructs the Russian Government to take the necessary measures to protect the lives and safety of our fellow countrymen using means appropriate to the situation. Parliamentarians express their deep condolences to the families and friends of the Russian and Tajik citizens who have died.

A number of parliamentarians expressed their bewilderment at the statement by the president's press secretary on the events on the Tajik-Afghan border, which pins on the Supreme Soviet the blame for the delay in Russia's adoption of a decision on retaliatory measures to neutralize the terrorist groupings.

The fact is that there is virtually no state in the world where in the event of mass armed attack on its border troops parliament needs to give special permission for the opening of return fire for effect and the use of regular troops to protect the lives of servicemen and civilians. Defense Ministry leaders can adopt all necessary measures autonomously. Especially since the supreme commander in chief was simply obliged to make such decisions anyway. In this instance parliament merely provides official confirmation and legal authorization for these emergency steps undertaken in a state of necessary defense.

Therefore these latest attacks by the president's press secretary on the Supreme Soviet are simply political speculation and an attempt to transfer the functions of the executive to the deputies.

There is a more serious aspect to this problem. It was described by Iona Andronov, deputy chairman of the Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations. According to him, the situation in the region has worsened since the end of last year, when, on the Supreme Soviet chairman's instructions, I. Andronov went to Kabul for a series of talks with the Afghan leadership. The Afghan leaders asked him to tell the Russian leadership that they are ready to discuss the problem and ease the tension on the border. The central issue here was to end the armed attacks on the Afghan-Tajik section of the border. In reply the Afghan leadership asked Russia to give humanitarian aid, primarily in the form of medicines, fuel, and equipment spares.

On receipt of that information, R. Khasbulatov sent the foreign minister a letter 18 January 1993 in which he offered the Supreme Soviet's help in these talks and also assistance in supplying humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

On 3 February 1993, however, A. Kozyrev, the head of the Foreign Ministry, stated in a reply that he considers the examination of this question premature. Since then the foreign policy department, according to I. Andronov, has

done nothing to normalize the situation on the border, which has, of course, worsened constantly.

Parliament Approves Tajik Friendship Treaty

LD1507144293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jul—This afternoon the Russian parliament, as a matter of urgency, ratified the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan. The urgency of ratification of the document, which was signed in Moscow on 25 May and ratified one month later by Tajikistan's parliament, was dictated by the need to create the legal basis for Russia to take part in settling the conflict on the Tajik-Afghan border and to establish stability in Tajikistan, which has been subjected to provocative attack by bandit groups.

The Russian parliament this evening also passed a package of Russo-Tajik agreements regulating the foundations for military cooperation between the two states and establishing the legal status of the Russian Armed Forces in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Deputies Receive Yeltsin's Draft Constitution

LD1607121693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0926 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul—The Russian Supreme Soviet has received the draft of the new Russian Constitution, ratified by the Constitutional Conference of 12 July, which was officially sent by the Russian president. In the accompanying note Boris Yeltsin expresses the hope that the deputies share his conviction: the new constitution cannot and should not be an instrument of political struggle. On the contrary, the president's note stresses that in restricting all branches of power in the interests of the individual, it should be the basis and guarantee of the peaceful development of all political, economic, and social processes.

After informing the people's deputies about the receipt of the draft constitution at this morning's parliament session, Oleg Rumyantsev, executive secretary of the Congress' Constitutional Commission, proposed that this document should be sent to the Constitutional Commission. In his opinion, further work should be done on the basis of the draft worked out by the Constitutional Commission, taking into account the variant of the basic law approved by the Constitutional Conference.

Oleg Rumyantsev stated that the participants in the Constitutional Conference have taken into account many important provisions in the people's deputies' draft and that the president's initial draft has undergone considerable changes, having become "much more social and corresponding to a constitutional system."

The Constitutional Commission executive secretary agrees with the fact that the draft constitution should be discussed by the subjects of the Federation. He believes that after this, in September a joint group of representatives from the Constitutional Commission and the Constitutional Conference should be formed to work up a single draft of the basic Law. This draft should also be submitted to the November Congress of People's Deputies.

Following the discussion, the deputies decided to adopt a decision of the Supreme Soviet on the draft Russian constitution as a basis and to work it up, taking into account the remarks made.

Discusses Drafts of Constitution

LD1607134893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] [Supreme Soviet Chairman] Ruslan Khasbulatov has said the drafts of the constitution are bad and very bad. However, this emotional assessment did not find understanding among the majority of deputies. Our parliamentary correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov reports from the White House:

[Osipov] Rumyantsev [secretary of the Constitutional Commission], who was driven into a corner by the parliament speaker's negative attitude toward both the drafts of the constitution and the constitutional process in general, stated that this point of view is Khasbulatov's alone. Most of those who spoke decided to continue to work on the drafts of the constitution to this or that extent and to elaborate a coordinated document.

Of course, it is natural that views on the draft of the main law elaborated by the Constitutional Conference were not as drastic as before. Only the speech by Mikhail Lapshin, the leader of the Agrarian Union faction, sounded like repercussions. He demanded that the constitution give priority to the peasants, collective agriculture, and together with them the return of Soviet power.

Deputy Baburin stressed that a constitution in Russia is not being written in accordance with Russian ways; the multiethnic traditions of the state are not taken into account. Nevertheless, he proposed that the draft decision to work on the drafts of a Russian constitution be adopted in principle.

Noting that taking into account the interests of the subjects of the Federation and the Federation Treaty itself is the Achilles' heel of all the drafts, it was proposed that a special session be held on preserving the integrity of the Russian state or that a congress of Russia's peoples be convened. Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Nikolay Ryabov proposed that this issue be discussed at a joint session of the leader of the Supreme Soviet, the president, and leaders of the subjects of the Federation.

Ramazan Abdulatipov, another deputy speaker of the parliament, pointed out that it is impossible to leave the republics without the Supreme Soviet's stand and views on the constitutional process. Incidentally, the opinion was

heard that subjects should themselves determine their attitude to the drafts of a new constitution.

A number of deputies had a generally positive attitude to President Yeltsin's address, in which he relies on the Supreme Soviet's responsibility and realistic attitude when assessing a draft constitution. Vyacheslav Osipov reporting from parliament.

Yeltsin Constitution Verges on 'Coup d'Etat'

PM1507121793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Comment by Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Constitutional Legislation Committee and chairman of the Public Committee in Defense of the Constitution and the Constitutional System, under the rubric "Surrounding the Constitution": "We Don't Want a Second Coup"]

[Text] I have not taken part in the Constitutional Conference, but I have carefully followed its progress. It is quite obvious that the conference has bitten off more than it can chew in aiming to carry out in a month the work of years. Hence the result. There are many juridical errors, there is a lot of verbal rubbish, but the most important point is that the provisions regarding human rights and citizens' freedom are much more weakly formulated than in any previous draft. On the other hand all the presidential prerogatives that were in the presidential draft remain in their entirety (admittedly in a camouflaged form, in different sections). As a result a presidential monarch is proposed in our country.

My overall impression of the draft that has been submitted for approval is that it is a constitution of discord and will bring no peace and harmony for Russians. Here is an example. In the rivalry between krays, oblasts, and republics the presidental draft takes the side of the former. Why? Because there are more of them. Their support increases the chances of getting the constitution accepted! But what will happen if 15 or 16 republics do not sign (albeit not ones as big as Sverdlovsk Oblast)? The disintegration of Russia. A farsighted politician and patriot would not take this path.

How can the situation be saved now? There is hope that the components of the Federation will carefully read and study the draft, think about what it says, and make the only correct choice: They are not enemies of Russia and of themselves!

Another point must certainly be taken into account: The country is up in arms, a struggle for power is being waged with unsuitable means that weaken the state. It can be strengthened by reconstruction of the Federation. The destruction of the USSR weakened ties inside the Russian Federation. Last year the republics were given an advance—the Federation Treaty—but the government did not develop a federative policy. Now there is an opportunity to refashion relations afresh, to give more power to the components of the Federation (they cannot be controlled from the center now), and to place this on a legal, budget footing. That is, not to engage in politicking, not to fuel fears, but to work.

But the following (dangerous!) scenario for the development of events cannot be left out of account either. The president's most extremist entourage may incite him to adopt this draft at all costs. The Public Committee for Defense of the Constitution warns: This is verging on a coup d'etat. And its participants will be liable under the same Article 64 as the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency—including the supreme penalty. We don't want this. Let us live according to the law.

Khasbulatov Sees Russia 'Slipping Into Totalitarianism'

LD1607135893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov thinks that a congress can be convened around 17 November in order to examine the issue of the new constition, but this forum should be preceded by a congress to deal with the problems of implementing economic reforms. Once again the speaker thereby spoke out against elections of the president and parliament before their term is up, having stated that the thunder of instability is sounding throughout the country, and that he can see Russia slipping into totalitarianism.

Parliament Discusses Land Reform

LD1507164693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The parliament also discussed the fundamentals of the land legislation. According to Ivan Altukhov, who presented the draft to deputies, this document takes account of the peculiarities of the present stage in the land reform, when its first stage is drawing to a conclusion—land has been transferred into the ownership of peasants and 39 million families or 130 million of Russia's citizens have become owners, and the second stage of forming a regulated land market is starting. New articles of the fundamentals of the legislation are expanding and protecting the rights of citizens, including the right to own land and the powers to manage land.

The draft was adopted in its second reading. Tomorrow—after the final work on its wording—it will be presented in its third reading.

At today's evening session today the parliament plans to examine the second reading of the law on the media and a temporary provision on a supervisory council for ensuring freedom of speech at the State Television and Radio Broadcasting.

Mass Media Law Amended; Federal Council To Meet 12 Aug

LD1507194793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS— The Russian Parliament has made amendments and addenda to the Russian law on mass media, concerning television and radio broadcasts and regulating influence exercised on radio and television by different branches of power.

The parliament adopted a resolution to set up a federal council for ensuring the freedom of speech at state-owned radio and television. The first session of the council was scheduled for August 12.

The federal council should be formed on the principle of delegating one deputy from each registered faction of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies. Factions have the right to nominate not only a people's deputy, but any citizen of the Russian Federation on their own choice. The president, the presidium of the Russian Parliament and the Russian Union of Journalists have the right to appoint two members each to the federal council.

The federal council shall analyze the policy of Russian tv and radio companies and make recommendations to their managers for improvement of their performance, taking into account the interests of various public and social groups of the Russian population. The federal council has been entrusted to protect journalists and other workers of state license holders on duty from political and administrative pressure.

Parliament Wants To 'Neutralize' Privatization Edict

MK1507104093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 3

[Yelena Kotelnikova report: "Question of Constitutionality of President's Edict. Supreme Soviet Will Review Presidential Guarantees"]

[Text] The Russian parliament intends to neutralize the president's initiative to speed up privatization and act on the state's pledges to exchange privatization checks for shares of denationalized enterprises in 1993. Attesting to this intention of the Supreme Soviet is the draft decree of the Supreme Soviet Presidium suspending the presidential edict "On State Guarantees of the Right of Russian Citizens to Participation in Privatization" until it has been recognized as constitutional. The decree was sent for discussion yesterday to parliamentary committees and commissions. Observers do not rule out that one reason prompting the Supreme Soviet to raise the question of legitimacy of the privatization process was parliament's desire to intercept control over the $3 billion earmarked by the G-7 countries toward the program in aid of privatization and reorganization of Russian enterprises.

Specialists of the Supreme Soviet commission for economic reform think the president's edict should be put on hold because it gives "additional impetus to dissipation of blocks of shares of privatized enterprises." Fikryat Tabeyev, chairman of the Federal Property Fund under the Supreme Soviet Presidium, thinks that the edict narrows down chances for investing in privatized enterprises, and holds up their economic development. This, according to him, is because the president set 29 percent as the minimum number of shares of privatized enterprises that can be sold for vouchers. The State Committee for the Management of State Property, on the contrary, thinks that the edict considerably broadens the supply on the primary share market and is one of the main guarantees that checks will be backed by shares. Since privatization by exchanging vouchers for shares is the main outcome of economic reform, observers explain the Supreme Soviet's attempt to scrap state guarantees to citizens by the desire of Yeltsin's opponents to rob him of his main trump card. This supposition is backed by the draft of another Supreme Soviet decree "On the Introduction of a System of Registered Privatization Accounts." According to the State Committee for the Management of State Property, this system, if introduced, may strongly hurt the interests of small investors since it limits their access to the primary share market and blocks the mechanism protecting small investors via a system of investment funds. The introduction of such accounts, thinks Igor Borodin, manager of the Veteran Investment Check Fund, may have "disastrous consequences" because the holders of certificates of such funds are socially unprotected citizens. To date, investment funds have accumulated nearly 30 percent of all vouchers.

Observers do not rule out that the parliament and Constitutional Court decision to revise privatization guarantees to citizens could be blocked from below, because local authorities would hardly dare share responsibility for this step with parliamentarians with 96 percent of people in Russia having received privatization checks now needing such guarantees. Besides, local authorities are unlikely to act on the court's decision. Moscow Deputy Mayor Aleksandr Nikitin told yesterday's press conference that even if the Constitutional Court ruled illegal the privatization carried out in Moscow "in one fell swoop," the Moscow government would not hold a "repeat privatization" and would press for making it legitimate through a Moscow Soviet session decision. [Report contains following boxed text]

Parliament Proposes Instead of President's Guarantees:

—to introduce a system of privatization accounts as of 1 October 1993

—to grant citizens with unused privatization checks a chance to turn them into privatization investments, valid for three years, in the privatization of state property

—to rule that, as of 1 January 1994, the only grounds for citizens to receive in ownership state property free of charge is privatization deposits on registered privatization accounts to be used before 1 January 1997

—to instruct the Russian Federal Property Fund and the Russian Savings Bank to establish, before 1 September 1993, a procedure for registration and cancellation of privatization checks exchanged for privatization deposits.

Parliament Passes Law on Precious Metals

MK1607103093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 2

[Dmitriy Kamin report in "Law on Precious Metals and Stones Adopted" column: "Parliament Legitimizes Operations With Valuables"]

[Text] It has taken the Russian parliament half a year to satisfy all the parties concerned and complete work on the draft law "On State Regulation of Extraction, Production, and Use of Precious Metals and Precious Stones, and on State Oversight of Operations With These Valuables." The document was passed in its first reading on 17 January, yesterday it had its second reading, and today the Russian Supreme Soviet is to pass an enactment on putting the law into effect.

The passage of the document in the second reading was until recently blocked by those Federation components on whose territory precious metals and stones are produced and processed. The main opponent of the draft was Yakutiya (the Republic of Sakha) whose representatives strongly resisted tough control of operations with valuables on the part of the federal authorities. On the other side, the State Committee on Precious Metals on behalf of the Russian Government actively supported the position of the drafters who had sought, as far as possible, to meet the interests of the country as a whole.

To overcome the contradictions, on 17 June the Russian Supreme Soviet charged Deputy Speaker Vladimir Ispravnikov with conducting talks between representatives of federal and regional authorities, as a result of which on 14 July a protocol was signed on coordinating the text of the bill. Following the compromise reached, yesterday's Supreme Soviet session adopted the text of the law without any particular debates. According to the drafters, the essence of the law was not distorted since only those amendments were introduced into it that were coordinated with them. Igor Ivanov, head of the drafting group and chairman of the parliamentary subcommission on currency and financial policy, believes that the extension of the federation components' rights with respect to allocated production quotas had become a reasonable concession in exchange for the regions' renunciation of the demand to limit—by partially devolving to local level—the oversight and administrative functions of the Committee on Precious Metals whose jurisdiction also includes the establishment of criteria for the assessment and procedures of referring natural diamonds to the category of precious stones. KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts note that this point of the law possibly reflects Leonid Gurevich's concept of the natural and cut diamonds production complex which was earlier advanced as a foundation for state policy in the production and marketing of precious metals and stones.

The greatest interest, however, is aroused by the fact that the Committee on Precious Metals, which, under the law, participates in forming federal stocks of precious stones and metals, will, by virtue of this law, be "subordinate and accountable to the Supreme Soviet." Moreover, the committee will have to coordinate with parliament the issue of licenses for the import and export of valuables, and it also receives the right to register entrepreneurial entities—and in the interests of executing its functions, to create state enterprises, establishments, and organizations not subject, however, to privatization or leasing.

Therefore, by legitimizing the state monopoly of extraction, production, and marketing of Russian precious metals and stones, parliament assumes control of basic organizational and financial aspects, leaving to the government the discretion to negotiate with the regions the amount of quotas and entrusting to it such functions as security and oversight organization.

[Article contains following boxed passage]

Powers of central authorities and federation components

In Russia a state monopoly exists in prospecting the deposits, and extracting, producing, and marketing precious metals and stones.

The jurisdiction of federal power bodies includes:

elaboration of a single state policy;

definition of procedures and conditions, and the licensing of operations with precious assets, as well as the procurement of valuable extracted;

formation and disposal of the State Precious Metals and Stones Fund of the Russian Federation;

oversight of all operations with precious metals and stones and branding them with the state hallmark.

Jurisdiction of state power bodies of federation components includes:

determination of procedures and formation of state precious metals and stones funds of federation components;

participation in state oversight of operations with valuables;

procurement of precious stones and metals produced within the quotas established by the government on agreement with the components and subject to approval by the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Entrepreneurial entities conducting operations with precious assets act on the basis on state licenses and must be registered with the Russian State Committee on Precious Metals.

Regional Affairs

North Caucasus Volunteers Recruited To Help Abkhazia

LD1607110693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1044 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kipkeyev]

[Text] Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria, northern Caucasus) July 16 TASS—Four buses with volunteers, who decided to fight on the side of Abkhazia, have left on Friday [16 July] for the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict zone.

The meeting of solidarity with Abkhazia has been lasting for the fifth day in Nalchik. People criticize the position of the Russian Foreign Ministry considering it pro-Georgian. They believe that the closing of the state border along the River Psou is an obvious demonstration of support for Georgia.

Caucasus Regions Sign Cooperation Treaty

PM1607093393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Viktor Pankratov: "Caucasus Should Live in Peace"]

[Text] A treaty on economic, cultural, and social cooperation has been signed by representatives of Stavropol Kray, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, and Kabardino-Balkaria. An important step has been taken along the path toward building a single Caucasus home.

Power Struggle Seen Behind Urals Republic Idea

PM1507153193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[Journalist German Galkin report: "Soviets in Chelyabinsk Hope To Strengthen Their Power by Creating South Urals Republic"]

[Text] Chelyabinsk—It is possible to draw this conclusion by analyzing the situation in the oblast center following the adoption by the inner soviet of the oblast soviet of a decision to transform Chelyabinsk Oblast into the South Urals Republic.

Oblast Soviet Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Salomatkin has declared that it is a question of equalizing the rights of all components of the Federation. He remarked, however, that one of the reasons why the idea of the South Urals Republic emerged is the fact that the Russian president continues to ignore the results of the election of the oblast administration head. Solomatkin emphasized that the president thereby disregards the voters' will.

But the president's stand on this question is based on rulings by the oblast court and the Russian Supreme Court, which deemed the candidates' registration illegal in connection with a violation of the election procedure. As regards the "expression of the voters' will," according to the data of the oblast soviet itself, only 30 percent of the electorate participated in the April election.

Boris Mizrakhi, who, as chairman of the coordinating council for questions of intraregional policy relating to the public and to the mass media, possesses the rights of a deputy head of the oblast administration, has remarked with regard to the idea of the South Urals Republic that the initiators of this step are not, in actual fact, concerned about the interests of the oblast's inhabitants. It is a question exclusively of a struggle for power.

The idea of the South Urals Republic did not come about only today. As early as last year Chelyabinsk Oblast Soviet was the first in the country to adopt an oblast charter—which may well be considered the initial step on the way to creating a regional constitution. At the same time the situation with the South Urals Republic is still far more vague than with the the Urals Republic in neighboring Sverdlovsk Oblast. The oblast's population has not been polled on this issue. It is still not known how it will perceive such an initiative. In addition, the inner soviet's decision has to be approved by a session of the oblast soviet—which has not happened yet either. Moreover, there is no unified viewpoint within the inner soviet itself. It is characteristic that the inner soviet's proposal to the oblast's population to create the South Urals Republic was signed not by Anatoliy Nacharov, acting chairman of the soviet, but by Aleksandr Salomatkin, his deputy.

Thus, the idea of a republic becomes Chelyabinsk Oblast Soviet's trump card in the struggle for power. On condition that the South Urals Republic is proclaimed, the oblast soviet evidently hopes to limit Moscow's influence and, mindful of the inertia of a considerable section of the population, to ensure that a conservative political line is pursued. The oblast soviet hopes by hook or by crook to bring its former chairman to power—Petr Sumin, who was illegally elected administration head. This time, maybe, as president of the South Urals Republic, if this comes about.

Nizhniy Novgorod Workers Plan Strikes

PM1507121893 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Andrey Shishov: "And in September We Go on Strike"]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod—The Nizhniy Novgorod proletariat is prepared to fight for its rights. This was stated at the third city congress of the workers' council. Not long before at Nizhniy Novgorod's largest industrial enterprises—mainly belonging to the military-industrial complex—there had been a wave of mass layoffs and the enterprises themselves are switching to a four-day or even in some places a three-day working schedule. The employment service cannot respond instantly to such changes. Naturally, dissatisfaction is surreptitiously growing among the industrial workers.

The congress stressed that only a cohesive working class, as the experience of the Kuzbass and Donbass has shown, can make the administration consider the working people's interests. The speakers noted that no trade unions can voice the working class' urgent aspirations and it can pin

its hopes only on itself. That is why it is necessary to make not only economic but political demands.

In particular Viktor Gamov, the representative of the workers' council from Arzamas-16, denied reports which had appeared earlier in the mass media that it was the employees and administration who had prepared the strike in this now world-famous city of nuclear weapons producers. That was done by the workers' council and it was its resolution which was approved by the majority of those assembled, Viktor Gamov stressed. He said that literally the next day they began to hand out wages. That means the money was there, the Arzamas leader concluded. It was simply that it was to someone's advantage to begin to destroy our country's nuclear potential.

The congress voiced solidarity with the participants in the strike struggle and instructed the city council of workers, which after numerous ordeals has acquired the status of a corporate body, to undertake the execution of the functions of a city strike committee. The workers' first strikes in defense of their rights are expected in late August and early September.

International Affairs

Kuchma Discusses Economic Agreement, Sevastopol

AU1507144993 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 13 Jul 93 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma by URYADOVYY KURYER correspondent at Kiev Airport; date not given: "To Maintain a Single Economic Area"]

[Text] **Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma is away on a two-day trip to Kherson and Kirovohrad Oblasts. This itinerary has not been selected by chance—the two oblasts, where harvesting is now in progress, have been showing the best results in growing cereals and selling the grain to the state. What is the situation in the fields this summer? Where do the farmers of Kherson and Kirovohrad Oblasts need efficient assistance? These are the questions that Leonid Kuchma, Yuriy Karasyk, minister of agriculture and foodstuffs, and other high-ranking officials who accompany the premier on his trip are about to clarify.**

Before the flight, URYADOVYY KURYER correspondent asked Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] to answer a number of other questions that are not associated with the trip. They concerned the Saturday [10 July] meeting between L.D. Kuchma, V.S. Chernomyrdin, and V.F. Kebich—heads of three neighboring states—Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus—at the Moscow suburb residence of the Russian Government. They also dealt with the situation regarding Sevastopol.

[Kuchma] The problem of economic integration of our states that we discussed near Moscow is as old as Rome. Everybody is by now convinced of the need for us to maintain close economic ties. This opinion was also shared by leaders of the Russian Federation and, what particularly pleases me, by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin. Disrupted ties do no good to anybody. Customs barriers are particularly felt. Some types of products cross the borders of our states four or five times. All of this adds up to the prime cost and to prices. To put it differently, we were unanimous in realizing that our ties need to be renewed just like the single economic area as a whole. We worked in a good atmosphere.

The impression created by the [Russian] Supreme Soviet's decision on Sevastopol sounded as a dissonance against this background. I am pleased to point out that the Russian Government and its head Viktor Chernomyrdin personally categorically distanced themselves from the position taken by the Russian Parliament. The Russian president also declared that he was ashamed of that decision. Of course, we do not identify the parliament with the Russian people. This was stressed in the statement by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. It is, certainly necessary to resolve the problems of the Black Sea Fleet, but not in the way that has been chosen by the Russian Supreme Soviet. Incidentally, in Zavidovo, presidents of Ukraine and Russia outlined ways for resolving these problems.

In line with the statement that we have signed on urgent measures for intensifying economic integration of our three states, deputy prime ministers were authorized to prepare corresponding documents.

[URYADOVYY KURYER] Did you at the meeting discuss a possible reaction on the part of other CIS states to the creation of an economic union?

[Kuchma] We stressed that the economic union is open in its character and that other CIS states may also join it.

[URYADOVYY KURYER] Does the renewal of the single economic space mean a return to common money and the return to the ruble zone?

[Kuchma] No, we have explicitly rejected this. Otherwise, what kind of state is it if it cannot pursue its own independent monetary policy?

[URYADOVYY KURYER] It is known to us that on Saturday an agreement on oil deliveries to Ukraine was also signed with Russia.

[Kuchma] Yes. It is for us a very important agreement. It is expected that, in the third quarter, 8 million tonnes of Russian oil will be supplied and in the fourth quarter—7 million tonnes. The main thing is that the price was specified: $80 per tonne in the third quarter and $90 per tonne in the fourth quarter. Make a note that the quota for oil deliveries was increased relative to that specified in earlier agreements. Today, this is extremely important for Ukraine.

Parties Denounce Economic Agreement

LD1507184993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1720 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Kiev July 15 TASS—Just as was to be expected, a statement, dated July 10, by the governments of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine on urgent measures to deepen economic integration gave rise to a negative reaction among the Ukrainian national-radicals.

The Ukrainian Republican Party and the Democratic Party of Ukraine have issued a joint statement expressing a firm protest against the signing of the Belarus-Russia-Ukraine document, viewing that as an attempt to revive the Soviet Union under a different name. This, in their view, is none other than a real threat to the economic and political sovereignty of Ukraine and to the very existence of Ukraine as an independent state.

In their statement, the two Ukrainian parties urged the Ukrainian parliament and President Leonid Kravchuk immediately to denounce the document and in future "Refrain from steps that are fraught with the danger of the revival of an empire, whatever the name".

Deputy Wants Dialogue on Sevastopol With Russian Parliament

LD1507144693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Dmytro Pavlychko, head of the Ukrainian parliament's foreign affairs committee, has stated that the Ukrainian Supreme Council regards a dialogue with the Russian parliament on the issue of Sevastopol as quite possible and necessary. In his opinion, a meeting should be held between Ruslan Khasbulatov and Ivan Plyushch, heads of the Russian and Ukrainian parliaments.

According to Pavlychko, a dialogue is likely to be held after Khasbulatov's Strasbourg visit is over. He said that negotiations should help find a way out of the present situation to avert a conflict between two fraternal peoples.

Ambassador Condemns Russian Position

LD1507161093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Report by correspondent Sergey Suntsov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Ukrainian ambassador in Moscow considered it necessary to give his point of view to the viewers of Channel One.

[Suntsov] Volodymyr Kryzhanovskyy, Ukrainian ambassador in Moscow and member of the Ukrainian parliament, reiterated at a news conference his country's official position with regard to the Russian Supreme Soviet's decision on Sevastopol and the financing of the Black Sea Fleet. The ambassador subjected the democratic forces of Russia to scathing criticism, in particular in parliament those who were not present at the Supreme Soviet when the issue was examined or who declined to vote on it, calling such a stand cowardly. He also attacked Russian cultural figures. Journalists asked him to comment on the desperate utterances of individual figures in Ukraine who are already demanding a reinforced military presence in the Crimea. Ukraine has sufficient forces to exclude the influence of Russia there, the ambassador noted. At the same time, he noted that there are many crazy people, both in Russia as well as in Ukraine who may bring about a tragedy.

Envoy Notes Ban on Russian Deputies

LD1607085093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Russian deputies will not be allowed into Sevastopol if they try to go there, Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia Volodymyr Kryzhanovskyy told a news conference in Moscow on 15 July. He described the Russian parliament's decision on the Russian status of Sevastopol as not an attempt to think about the status of this city but another shameful act of political gambling. Ukraine has enough resources to prevent Russia from taking Sevastopol under its jurisdiction, the Ukrainian ambassador said.

Crimean Speaker Against International Control

AU1507161193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Jul 93 p 2

[Oleksandr Pilat report from the Crimea: "Passions Around Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] N. Bagrov [Chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council] said that he did not see any mechanism for implementing the decisions adopted by the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation. Bagrov answered in the negative to whether it is worth turning to international forces and placing the situation in the Crimea under international control. He also told journalists that one of the most acceptable variants would be to give the Crimean military bases to Russia for an extended period of time.

At a news conference that was held in Sevastopol, Ivan Yermakov, Ukrainian presidential representative in the city, refused to make an assessment of the Russian Federation Supreme Council's decisions.

On the evening of 12 July, the Sevastopol "National Salvation Front" committee organized a rally in Nakhimov Square to which only about 1,000 Crimeans came, despite all the predictions of gathering between 35,000 and 40,000 persons. The rally organizers said that a large group of people's deputies from the Russian Federation and representatives of public organizations would arrive in Sevastopol on 15 July "in order to establish and form a Russian administration in the city." At an expanded meeting of the board of the City Council and state administration, the Sevastopol residents were asked to remain calm. In general, all of Sevastopol's enterprises and stores work, the city and interurban transport functions, and the people want to live and work in peace.

Official Discusses Nuclear Policy, Sevastopol

AU1507150993 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 13 Jul 93 p 9

[Interview with First Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk by Lubos Palata in Stirina, near Prague; date not given: "Ukraine Will Not Be a Nuclear Power, But It Wants Guarantees"]

[Text] Boris Tarasyuk is the Ukrainian first deputy foreign minister and head of his country's delegation to the disarmament talks, a considerable part of which has lately been devoted to the nuclear weapons deployed on Ukrainian territory. He recently took part in a conference on regional cooperation held in Stirina, near Prague involving Central and East European officials. During the conference, he granted us the following interview.

[Palata] Will Ukraine remain a nuclear power?

[Tarasyuk] Ukraine can claim to be a nuclear state. However, the question remains as to what extent it is actually possible for it really to become a nuclear power. According to our experts, it would be necessary to earmark more than $64 billion for this. From a legal point of view, it is up to parliament to make the decision about the country's nuclear or non-nuclear status. Moreover, the issue takes on

a military perspective here, including whether Ukraine can put its decision into practice. Today the situation is such that we do not even have control over the nuclear weapons located on our territory. They are subordinate to the Commonwealth of Independent States Strategic Forces' Command and, therefore, at the moment, it is impossible to consider Ukraine to be a nuclear power.

It is obvious from what I have said that, if we decided to become a nuclear country, a whole series of measures would have to follow so that the political declaration becomes reality. It would be necessary to establish a very complex strategic command system and factories to produce the nuclear weapons, which we do not currently have.

Moreover, I am personally convinced that parliament will not vote to change Ukraine's non-nuclear status.

[Palata] Why has parliament not yet ratified the START 1 treaty?

[Tarasyuk] The Ukrainian Parliament has been discussing the START 1 treaty for a long time. A whole series of complications is, however, associated with fulfilling this agreement. For example, in order to destroy these weapons, we would need $2.8 billion, which we do not have.

[Palata] Is it not possible to leave the destruction of these weapons to Russia?

[Tarasyuk] It is possible to dismantle the missiles' warheads in Russian facilities, but the capacity of these plants is already overstretched. Apart from this, there is also the problem of compensation for the uranium contained in the warheads, for which we want either financial compensation or fuel for our nuclear power stations. We have not managed to reach an agreement with Russia about this.

However, security guarantees are an issue of no less importance. Ukraine is currently preparing to destroy the most effective kind of weapons and, therefore, it is entitled to ask how its security will be guaranteed in the future. Anti-Ukrainian sentiments have been on the increase in Russia recently and Moscow is making territorial claims against us. The Romanian Parliament has tabled demands for the Ukrainian region of Northern Bukovina. These are very real threats.

At the moment, we are holding intensive talks with the permanent members of the Security Council, who are also nuclear powers, and—in essence—we have come to an agreement whereby these countries pledge that Ukraine will not be attacked from their side by either nuclear weapons or conventional forces and we have received a guarantee of territorial integrity. As far as we are concerned, the issue also involves making sure these promises are made to Ukraine not only in the form of a non-binding statement, but also in the form of a legal, internationally valid, and binding document.

[Palata] Does this mean you have also received security guarantees from Russia?

[Tarasyuk] Yes. The guarantees we have received from Moscow—for the most part—satisfy us.

[Palata] Nevertheless, are you not concerned about a change in Moscow's political course? For example, last Friday [9 July] the Russian Parliament declared the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol and the surrounding area to be Russian territory.

[Tarasyuk] The Russian Parliament's resolution concerning Sevastopol is an act that flies in the face of all the norms of international law. It does not only concern us. The resolution represents a threat to the entire international community, because today territorial claims are being made against Ukraine, tomorrow it could be Latvia, Poland, or even the Czech Republic. Here you can also see clearly why we insist on real guarantees for our security.

Criticism of U.S. Strike on Iraq Viewed

WS1607090193 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 9 Jul 93 p 1

[Interview with Dmytro Vydrin, manager of the International Institute of Global and Regional Security, by UNIAN correspondent Lyudmyla Nikolaychuk: "The U.S. Action in Iraq: Ukrainian Diplomats for the First Time Have Beaten their Russian Colleagues"]

[Text] [Nikolaychuk] How do you assess Ukraine's denunciation of the U.S. strike on Iraq? It seems that for the first time ever, the reaction of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has been different from the stance of the United States and Russia.

[Vydrin] Instead of calling this a denunciation, I would rather call it an opinion that the U.S. action was inadequate to the situation. When I learned about the Ukrainian reaction from the note of Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko passed to U.S. Ambassador Roman Popadyuk, for the first time, my country's move on the international arena made me happy. With regard to foreign policy, Ukraine surpassed itself in at least three regards. First, it made an independent move without following other states, including Russia. Second, the reaction was very quick, which is atypical of Ukraine which is rather slow in its foreign activity. Third, Ukraine has acted with an eye to the future; its reaction was very honorable and moral. The Ukrainian reaction was due to the fact that Minister Zlenko did not seek advice from either the president or the legislature. There exists a cynical phrase: never obey your heart, although this may be the honorable thing. From the point of view of tactics, this has been an irrational step, which could result in the deterioration of relations with the U.S. State Department. However, in my opinion, this has been a wonderful move from the strategic point of view. Under the current situation, the U.S. activity is almost beyond any control. Russian politicians are playing into the U.S. hands. They would probably like to provoke the United States to use force, in order to justify the preservation of a powerful military-industrial complex and strategic forces. This suits Russia, but this does not suit Ukraine. I think that even if relations with the State Department deteriorate, Ukraine's actions will enjoy a

positive reaction on the part of a large group of politicians, who would like the counterbalance to the U.S. policy be of a moral and legal, rather than a military nature.

[Nikolaychuk] How will the U.S. action against Iraq influence the resolution of the nuclear issue in Ukraine, the ratification of the START I in particular?

[Vydrin] These events will undoubtedly hamper the adoption of this document by the Ukrainian legislature. Perhaps other countries that have access to nuclear arms will think twice before giving them up. If force remains the decisive argument in international relations, why get rid of it?

[Nikolaychuk] Is there a link between the recent events and Washington's decision to replace Ambassador Popadiuk with William J. Miller?

[Vydrin] This decision has been predictable. The choice made by the United States did not seem wise from the very start. Many experts in the United States, and a large group of American Ukrainians, share this opinion. The generally accepted world norm stipulates that an individual should not be appointed ambassador to the state of his origin, because this evokes the dissatisfaction of both parties. One party suspects the ambassador of "playing into the hands" of his country of origin, while the other has to overcome a constant urge to demand more than the ambassador is entitled to give. This has happened in the case of Mr. Popadiuk. He has failed to meet the demands of both parties.

[Nikolaychuk] What will be the Russian attitude toward Ukraine's stance?

[Vydrin] A large group of Russian deputies are subject to overwhelming influence of their U.S. colleagues. They share an illusion: if we want the Americans to grant us money, we must support them in all spheres. This time, Ukraine has undoubtedly beaten the Russian diplomacy. For practically minded Russian politicians, this could become an impetus for seeking closer ties with Ukrainian diplomats.

Indian President Meets Leaders, Discusses Ties

LD1507151793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] On 14th July India's and Ukraine's presidents met at the Indian president's residence in Kiev to discuss predominantly economic relations between the two countries. Their cultural cooperation was discussed during a meeting with Ukrainian vice premier in charge of humanitarian matters, Zhulynskyy. During a talk with Foreign Minister Zlenko, bilateral and international issues were discussed, with the Ukrainian minister stating Ukraine's official position with regard to the Sevastopol issue.

The two nations' foreign trade relations were discussed with Ivan Herts, Ukraine's minister for foreign economic relations. The meetings were attended by Indian ambassador to Ukraine, Sudhir Tukaram Devare, and Heorhiy Hodorovskyy, Ukraine's ambassador to the Republic of India.

On 14th July India's President Shankar Dayal Sharma was awarded an honorary doctorate diploma at a ceremony held at the Kiev Taras Shevchenko State University for his valuable contribution to culture and science. The ceremony was attended by Vice Premier Zhulysnkyy, Foreign Minister Zlenko, Education Minister Talanchuk and other officials.

Suggests Cooperation in Science, Technology

BK1507162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has said that establishment of a more democratic world order is a primary task today following the end of the cold war. Speaking on the Ukraine Television in Kiev, he extended India's support in this task. Dr. Sharma suggested that both Kiev and New Delhi should cooperate in the fields of science and technology, informatics, and electronics. The president said that he is leaving Kiev with a sense of fulfilment of having contributed to the friendly relations between the two countries. Our special correspondent, Sumati Vishwanatan reports that the president has since arrived in Odessa, the Black Sea port and tourist resort. Dr. Sharma leaves for the Turkish capital, Ankara tomorrow.

Visits Odessa; Discusses Trade

LD1607105293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Schwarzman]

[Text] Odessa July 16 TASS—Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma ended his official visit to Ukraine on Friday.

He stayed for two days in Odessa which is a twin-city of Calcutta.

India assigns to Odessa and other Black-Sea port cities a key role in developing the mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation and also in developing trade relations with Russia, because these harbours serve as gateways for a substantial volume of Russo-Indian trade.

According to the accompanying Indian diplomats, Shankar Dayal Sharma left for Turkey. He intends to visit Hungary afterwards.

EC Allocates Funds for Modernizing Nuclear Reactors

AU1507104793 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Jul 93 p 5

[Interview with Robert Elphin, head of the Information Service of the EC European Department, by Tymofiy Prokopenko: "We Will Jointly Deal With Reactors"]

[Text] **The countries of the European Community have allocated 432 million ECU [European currency units] for the program of modernizing nuclear reactors of the Chernobyl-type that are situated on the territory of the former USSR. A few days ago, the first stage of the program started. It is planned to bring the nuclear reactors situated, in particular, on the territory of Ukraine up to European safety standards.**

Our special correspondent Tymofiy Prokopenko turned to Robert Elphin, head of the Information Service of the EC European Department, with a request to tell what is going to be done in the near future.

[Elphin] At the first stage, it is planned to conduct a comprehensive expert analysis of the reactors in the nuclear power plants; 62 million ECU have been allocated for this purpose. During one year, experts must assess the technical state and recommend specific measures for modernizing the reactors' protection systems.

[Prokopenko] How will the capital be distributed? There already were precedents in Ukraine when Western money allocated for eliminating the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl power plant was used to build a research center in Obninsk.

[Elfin] The money will only be distributed after we have the conclusions and recommendations of the experts. Of course, in close cooperation with Ukrainian scientists, we will implement projects for improving the exploitation safety of Chernobyl-type reactors. In short, we will work together.

Turkish Defense Minister on Military Cooperation

TA1607101693 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] National Defense Minister Nevzat Ayaz has said that yesterday's agreement with Ukraine on defense cooperation added a new concrete and favorable dimension to the relations between the two countries.

Ayaz, on an official visit in Kiev, gave a joint news conference with Ukrainian Defense Minister Kostyantyn Petrovych Morozov. Ayaz said that with the defense industry cooperation agreement which will be signed tomorrow, the legal basis for cooperation will have been formulated between the two countries. Ayaz stated that agreements on military and defense industries cooperation will be signed shortly.

National Affairs

Kravchuk 'Not Against' Referendum

LD1607061793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0545 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev July 16 TASS—"I'm not against a referendum on confidence in the president and parliament. However, we should take into account the fact that this will be a consultative poll and not a referendum as such," said Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in an interview with local television.

"Therefore, I sent an appropriate memorandum to the legislature, asking lawmakers to take such a decision which would meet the Ukrainian Constitution and the law on referendum," he added.

The president noted that it was he who suggested holding a referendum at the plenary session of the Ukrainian parliament, at which people will express their attitude to the head of the Ukrainian state and parliament.

According to Kravchuk, referendum questions should also include construction, social and economic policy and main problems of establishing the independent state.

National Bank Issues 20,000-Karbovantsi Coupons

AU1507114393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Jul 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The Karbovanets Turns Purple"]

[Text] According to Ukraine's National Bank, coupons with the denomination of 20,000 Ukrainian karbovantsi [K] are being issued on 9 July 1993. They are the same size as the K10,000 coupons. The main color of the banknote is purple; light-blue and yellow are additional colors. The obverse side of the coupon depicts a part of the Prince Volodymyr monument, and the reverse side—a part of the building of Ukraine's National Bank.

As regards the rates of the Ukrainian karbovanets with regard to foreign currencies, as of 9 July 1993, $1 is worth K4,201; 1 British pound sterling—K6319-55, 1 Deutsche mark—K2471-47, 1 French franc—K73—94; 10 Japanese yen—K391-36; 1 ECU [European Currency Unit]—K4844-58; and 1 Russian ruble—K5.

Officials Comment on Currency Introduction

AU1607090493 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Volodymyr Oliynyk, head of the economic section: "The Government Is Pregnant With the Hryvnya. Will the Delivery Be Premature?"]

[Text] **At present, nobody can answer this question, but the events of recent days allow us to make several obvious assumptions. In this aspect, first and foremost, Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma's trip to the Baltic countries and then, despite the escapade by the Russian parliament, the work in Moscow with Belarusian and Russian colleagues are of interest. It is known from well informed sources that Leonid Kuchma showed a specific interest in the principle of introducing the currency in Lithuania. However, let us analyze what our statesmen have recently said on this occasion.**

Ukraine's Prime Minister L.D. Kuchma

At the news conference dealing with his visit to the Baltic countries, Leonid Kuchma said that, no matter what, the

hryvnya must be introduced by the end of the year and that, because of its absence, we may totally lose control over the state's finances. Assistance from abroad, more specifically, in the form of a stabilization fund, is possible. In the prime minister's opinion, we may count upon Western aid. Besides, after his trip on Saturday to Moscow, where a tripartite economic union was concluded with Belarus and Russia, it has become clear that the prime minister discussed the possibility of interaction and non-interference with his colleagues.

Deputy Prime Minister V.I. Yevtukhov Who Is Also President of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

Before the meeting of the Ukrainian president and prime minister with industrialists and producers, he [Yevtukhov] stated that the hryvnya would be introduced in the very near future. To my question whether Ukraine has a corresponding stabilization fund, Vasyl Yevtukhov answered in the affirmative. Despite the modest currency supply, which is much smaller than planned, the deputy prime minister does not lose hope that international currency-holding organizations will render assistance. Incidentally, somewhat earlier, this was stated by Depty Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk.

Head of the National Bank V.A. Yushchenko

At a recent news conference on the interaction between the state banking system and commercial banks, Viktor Yushchenko said that Ukraine was, in fact, ready to introduce a national currency. At the same time, it became clear from what he said that the hryvnya will not be introduced instantaneously with the complete withdrawal from circulation of the depreciated coupons. At any rate, the government does not presently have such a possibility, even though this variant would be the best for Ukraine, because hundreds of millions of coupons that are presently in cash circulation among semi-legal structures would be immediately withdrawn from circulation.

A team of financiers has worked for two weeks (and maybe still works) in Pushcha-Vodytsya [near Kiev]. It elaborated the final details of the operation on introducing a national currency in Ukraine. The secrecy of this work is understandable, as is also the fact that a team of specialists worked, as they say, behind closed doors and did not advertise its procedures or results. Specialists predict that the hryvnya will be introduced at the end of August or, at the latest, at the beginning of September.

Belarus

Kebich Comments on Tripartite Economic Union

WS1607110793 Minsk Belaruskaje Television Network in Belarusian 1430 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Report from a news conference by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich on results of the summit held in Minsk on 12 July by correspondent V. Bitsan]

[Text] [Bitsan] Reports that appeared during the weekend were unexpected and insufficient. That was why Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich agreed to hold a news conference in order to answer numerous questions.

[Begin Kebich recording, in Russian] Everything that has recently happened has been a surprise not only for you, but believe me, for me, too. The point is that we were pursuing the treaty on an economic union for a long time and with difficulties. Important complicated events occurred in the legislature. I must admit that I was forcing these events after the 30 June meeting in Moscow. I was forcing them very actively, because the brouhaha, excuse the word, in the CIS, all these approaches in which the stances of nine or 10 members had to be coordinated every time, in which everyone only sought advantages and did not want to yield anything to the other sides... all this had persuaded us, the government, that if we proceed to move toward the economic union at the this pace, we will achieve nothing and there will be no economic union. This was why, on 30 June, the question was asked point blank: Shall there be an economic union or not? We had met with understanding on the part of the Russian side and had come to the conclusion that an economic union had to be created at least on a bilateral basis.

However, the recent events in Ukraine and the economic situation there have convinced the Ukrainian leadership, Leonid Kuchma, in particular, that Ukraine should join this economic union as soon as possible. [end recording]

[Bitsan] The journalists who are experts in CIS activity, however ineffective, asked numerous questions on economy, politics, and geography. To Vyacheslav Kebich's honor, he explained the idea of the new union in detail, and assured that there are no backstage calculations on the part of the Moscow summit participants. The union is open for everyone, which is the most important idea. Now, we will be waiting for results.

Shushkevich Supports Agreement

WS1507141793 Minsk RID in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich has, for the first time, commented on the creation of an economic union of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine: "My attitude toward all kinds of economic unions is positive. We reached an agreement on forming a broad union at the May [CIS] summit. This is just another proof that the general concept was correct. If a broad union cannot be formed, we should create a narrow one. If there are arguments in favor of a narrow union and the government takes them into account—let us form it. If a tripartite union does not work, we will have to create a bilateral union."

When asked by an RID correspondent whether the joint declaration by the three prime ministers does not amount to an endless production of new documents, Stanislav Shushkevich said: "This is a declaration. During the May summit in Moscow, we charged the experts with drafting 25 documents. A large group of specialists was charged with this task. Now, there appeared three giants who are able to do the same by 1 September. I wish them luck."

While commenting on Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich's interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in which the latter said that Shushkevich, unlike Yeltsin and Kravchuk, knew nothing about the scheduled meeting, Stanislav Shushkevich said: "I am happy that I did not know about this. The government deals with the economy. Let the government be responsible for the economy then. Kebich's statement has been very pleasant for me. This is proof of my line and of the fact that I cannot be blamed for certain things. This explains everything."

Defense Ministry Opposes Congress' Military Declaration

WS1507143693 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1030 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] The press center of the Belarusian Defense Ministry has issued a statement prompted by the adoption at the First Congress of the Belarusians of the World of a declaration on the issues of military construction.

The document circulated by the press center on 15 July expresses regret over the fact that the congress, which has undoubtedly become an outstanding event in the nation's cultural life, has become involved in politics. The Defense Ministry has repeatedly stated that military construction is being carried out in strict accordance with the Supreme Soviet's decision to create the national armed forces, the Republic's constitution, and laws. Any other interpretation of these issues is based on emotions and speculations that accompany the complicated process of securing a reliable defense of the sovereign state. While adopting the declaration on the military issues, the congress has been led by a bunch of extremists who want to separate the Belarusian people and the Belarusian Armed Forces.

The press center of the Defense Ministry underlines that the delegates from distant foreign countries must realize that it is inappropriate for cultural and ethnic associations to try to change the approach and concepts of military and state structure of these countries. The delegates have had no grounds to say that Belarus lacks a reliable Army faithful to the ideas of Belarusian statehood and that a negative attitude toward independence and sovereignty reign in the Belarusian Army. This is an insult on the part of the citizens of other states, although they are ethnic Belarusians, for those Belarusian citizens who are now serving in the Republic's Armed Forces and who have pledged allegiance to the Belarusian people.

The press center is astounded by the fact that the declaration adopted at the congress has used the hackneyed phrases of the Belarusian Servicemen Union in order to depict the persecution of patriotic servicemen and opposition to the return of Belarusian officers to Belarus.

The press center points out that the declaration approved at the congress is a product of "certain political forces" and that the declaration will negatively influence the historical process of the consolidation of the Belarusians of the world, as well as the consolidation of all the residents of the Republic regardless of their nationality, religion, and political persuasions. The aim of such consolidation is to strengthen the state and its security.

Army Chief of Staff Comments on National Security

LD1507175093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 11 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Representatives of 40 ministries, departments, establishments, and organizations gathered in the Supreme Soviet building on 1 July for a two-day conference National Defense of the Republic of Belarus: Current State and Prospects. It was organized by the parliament's permanent commission for national security, defense, and fighting crime as part of the preparations for the draft law on national security of our young state. On the final day, the participants divided into separate sections to consider, discuss and study the theoretical and practical issues of providing national security for the Republic of Belarus in the political, humanitarian, military, scientific, technical, information, economic and ecological spheres.

On the first day the introduction to the subject and its problems was made. Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich was busy at a Supreme Soviet session, but sent the conference written greetings. Mechislav Gryb, chairman of the Supreme Soviet standing commission for national security, defense and fighting crime, spoke on the aims and tasks of the state policy in the sphere of national security. In particular, Lieutenant General Nikolay Churkin, first deputy minister of the defense department and chief of staff of the Belarusian Army, made a report on the problems of providing national security of the Republic of Belarus in the military and political spheres. Mr. Churkin devoted almost half his report to an analysis of the military and political situation in the United States and NATO, and was favorably received by the participants.

What can we add to what our listeners already know from his speech at the international conference European Integration and Military and Political Aspects of National Security of New Independent States, which was held three weeks earlier in the column hall of the Officers' Center? There is something to add—such as that despite the economic and financial difficulties one should also think about development of the material and scientific and technical base of the armed forces, the lieutenant general said. The scientific potential has no right to be passive in such a situation. We must allocate money for military science in order not to lag behind our neighbors. Not only in the defense sphere but also in the development of the economy as a whole.

[Begin Churkin recording] No doubt armed forces should correspond to the economic state of the country but at the same time they should be able to provide security. This contradiction can be solved in several directions. It is not accidental that such a concept as military sufficiency has appeared, although many people try to reject the possibility of interpreting this concept of military sufficiency, saying that there is no image of an enemy—we have in fact announced in our doctrine that we do not regard any state as an enemy—and build equal relations with all states on a bilateral and multilateral basis. Yes, it is true. But sufficiency exists not from the point of view of proceeding from existence of an enemy but considering the actions of the armed forces and their adequate provision. The military doctrine of the Republic of Belarus, in evaluation of the military threat to the republic, proceeds from aspirations of some states to solve disputed issues by methods of war and force, also [words indistinct] idea of revision of the state borders and in other issues outlined in the structure of the military doctrine. By the way it is not a structure of the military doctrine; its military and political aspect are not covered here, only the military and technical aspect concerning the armed forces is covered here, i.e., what concerns practical issues. [end recording] [passage omitted]

In evaluating the character of possible wars, our doctrine also proceeds from real sources of military threat such as a local war and military conflicts of various intensity to which special attention is paid now because it is those that present now the primary level of risk. And nobody can guarantee today that under certain conditions they will not grow into a large-scale war, our chief of staff noted, adding:

[Begin Churkin recording] The armed forces of the Republic of Belarus must be able to carry out military actions of any kind, any scale, proceeding from the international appraisal of intensity of the level of military action, but we do not accept such a path to sovereignty. By fulfilling all the treaties adopted earlier, both at the USSR level and after the break-up of the USSR, the treaties signed by the Republic of Belarus, we first earn the trust of all the states surrounding us. We try to inspire this trust on the principle that we spread our restructured troops across the territory of the republic in such a way as to prevent any neighboring states from doubting that we might distribute forces against them in the time of peace, but that we spread our armed forces, formations, and units equally across the whole territory of the Republic of Belarus.

We would like to see the same principle of trust on the part of our neighboring states. I believe that these measures of trust will first play a positive role and provide the region's security within eastern Europe..., [sentence ends as heard] [end recording]

[Begin Churkin recording] As for the material and technical support, it is true, we are not now able to carry out

large-scale military exercises. Both NATO and other countries [passage indistinct] exercises. We carry out those exercises at a smaller scale. We train sub-units and soldiers for conducting military actions, for using them for their dedicated purpose. Moreover, we use bases outside military townships to avoid spending resources from the defense budget, which has already been reduced. But we ensure that the armed forces exist and play the role of the guarantor of security of the Republic of Belarus.

I assure all those present here that, despite all the problems in the armed forces, despite the budget being very much reduced for maintaining the armed forces, the armed forces are and will be the guarantor of security of the Republic of Belarus and are able to fulfil their tasks, both in the conditions of arising conflicts and in extraordinary situations. I am not trying to scare you with these words. When I say extraordinary situations, I do not mean some outburst of emotions, but explosions at chemical enterprises, forest fires, floods, when the whole population will have to take part and the troops will be involved unavoidably for elimination of the consequences in order to create normal conditions of life and security for the people of the Republic of Belarus, i.e., I do not exclude internal aspects of security.

The armed forces of the Republic of Belarus are on the path of reform and the tasks put to the armed forces of the Republic of Belarus will be fulfilled. The professional level of officers, warrant officers, soldiers and sergeants is adequate and we will fulfil all tasks set before us. [end recording]

German Aid Sought for Help in Destroying Arms

PM1507135993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Pavel Chernenko report: "Belarus Asks Germany for Help in Destroying Arms"]

[Text] Minsk—According to the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, Belarus must cut 2,171 tanks, 167 aircraft, 1,087 infantry fighting vehicles, and 333 armored personnel carriers. Experts calculate that this will require up to $33 million in the very near future. Belarus is currently spending 1.6 times more on cutting combat equipment than the United States, Britain, and France together.

To ensure that the process of the destruction of combat equipment does not stop in the very near future for want of finance, Belarus has turned for help to Germany, asking it to provide highly efficient portable units for cutting up armored vehicles.

Security Official Dies in Accident

LD1507172293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1419 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By KRIM-PRESS/BELINFORM]

[Text] Minsk, 15 Jul—Mikahil Zhukovets, head of the foreign intelligence directorate of the State Security Committee of the Republic of Belarus, died tragically in Minsk on 13 July. Officials of the information service of the Belarus KGB refrained from giving details and only stated that the death was the result of an accident. The city procuracy has instigated criminal proceedings over the incident and an investigation is under way.

Moldova

Snegur Previews Visit to Romania

AU1507203493 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Interview with President Mircea Snegur by Bucharest radio correspondent Nicolae Mircea Nastase, in Chisinau on 15 July—recorded]

[Text] Next Saturday, 17 July, the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Mircea Snegur, will arrive in Bucharest. Our radio correspondent in Chisinau Nicolae Mircea Nastase sent us the following interview with President Snegur:

[Nastase] Mr. President, I am the correspondent for Bucharest Radio. You have just received a visit from the North Atlantic Council delegation. However, only one day separates you from yet another important visit. What are the targets of your forthcoming visit to Romania, which seems to give the lie to the rumors, so to say, spread by certain media about an alleged cooling off of relations between Romania and Moldova?

[Snegur] Indeed, this is the very purpose of this visit, namely to quash such rumors; they are unjustified and unsubstantiated. As is only normal, the leaders of two sister countries have a lot of things to talk about, and I will discuss them with Mr. President Ion Iliescu. The discussions will focus on matters pertaining to our economic integration and I believe that this time we will also discuss certain concrete projects. We will also touch on other issues such as political matters, the situation in the area, the situation in Europe, Moldova's attitude toward various communities, and so forth. I believe that (?we will have) a working meeting that will be conducive, I repeat, to the establishment of some concrete projects.

IBRD Experts Issue Recommendations for Market Economy

AU1507171093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1518 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 15/7/1993—At an interview with Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, experts of the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] mission visiting Chisinau announced they had prepared a memorandum comprising recommendations concerning the transition to the market economy in the Republic of Moldova. Among the prerequisites of the World Bank aid as provided by the memorandum, there are: distribution of the patrimony to the population beginning with next September; elaboration of a social program; harmonization of the salary policy with the market economy; reduction of the state orders system in agriculture; breaking the monopoly of some big state-owned enterprises. A council of experts to work with the government was also proposed to be created in order to examine the actual state of facts and to ease the implementation of new experiences, MOLDOVA PRESS informs.

Kazakhstan

Slavic Economic Union Termed 'Surprising'

PM1507115593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Vladimir Ardayev report: "Kazakhstan Makes Negative Assessment of Agreement Concluded by Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian Heads of Government"]

[Text] Almaty—The report that the Belarusian, Russian, and Ukrainian heads of government signed the joint statement on urgent measures to deepen economic integration has caused extreme bewilderment in Kazakhstani government circles—not for the first time in recent months.

"What has happened is surprising, to say the least," Tulegen Zhukeyev, state councillor of the Republic of Kazakhstan, told your correspondent. "Above all, because Kazakhstan simply was not invited to participate in the discussion and signing of that document. This is strange, since the joint statement is based on theses which have been advanced precisely by Kazakhstan repeatedly over the past 18 months—I mean the document's provisions which speak of the organization of an economic union, the setting up of coordinating and also, if necessary, supranational organs, a unified customs area, the more efficient and free functioning of the monetary system, and others. Kazakhstan in the person of President Nursultan Nazarbayev has insistently, month after month, reiterated the need for these measures—and what has happened? It now turns out that the Kazakhstani integration initiatives belong to quite different political subjects, and it is proposed that Kazakhstan should choose whether to subscribe to them or to select different partners for itself.

"Of course, it is a question not of 'copyright' over particular political ideas but of the elementary logic of the actions of our CIS partners and, if you like, of the emergence of the question of the degree of trust in them. The organization of an economic union is the first item on the agenda of the Commonwealth's activity. A group which is preparing drafts of the basic documents of this union is completing its work in Minsk. Representatives of the governments met there as recently as the beginning of July at the vice premier level to discuss the same old question. One wonders why it is necessary to break everything that has been achieved with such difficulty in order suddenly to declare that just three chosen states, so it turns out, are the initiators of the creation of an economic union. Moreover, they are states whose political circles only quite recently responded far from appropriately to the same proposals advanced by Kazakhstan.

"Russian Vice Premier A. Shokhin's attempt to blame what has happened on 'the desire of Central Asian states to create a common economic union together with Turkey and Pakistan' is incorrect, to put it mildly. His suggestion that Kazakhstan and other CIS partners should choose between joining one or other of these two economic unions simply does not stand up to criticism from a commonsense viewpoint. If only because there was no talk at all in Istanbul of creating an economic union, and certainly not with such a degree of integration as on the territory of the former USSR. There just one question was regarded as of paramount importance—that of setting up a freer scheme of transport operations in the Asian region. For Kazakhstan and the other Central Asian states this is a very painful question and a very important one in the sphere of long-term economic development. For, unlike Russia and Ukraine, not one of these states has free access to seas. By what right is it now possible to restrict the Central Asian states' opportunities for further free development and to confront them with the need to make a really childish choice: If you play with him, don't come near me?

"Maybe this way of formulating the question would be legitimate if we were talking of cooperation with 'third' partners, which shuts off opportunities for integration within the CIS framework. But, speaking in Istanbul, President Nazarbayev bluntly pointed out that 'access' to Asia opens up favorable new opportunities also for the Commonwealth states, including Russia and Ukraine.

"You get the impression," T. Zhukeyev said to conclude his commentary, "that emotions rather than common sense are once again getting the upper hand in the politics of a number of CIS states."

The situation is extremely reminiscent of the one that took shape after the August putsch, when the first Minsk meeting of the "Slav three," which was at once nicknamed the "Belovezhskiy pushch" [pun on "pushcha," meaning forest, and "putsch"], was held. It is hard to argue with Tulegen Zhukeyev about Kazakhstan's role in attempts to bring together and coordinate the policies of states which once constituted a single whole. Too much is known about the efforts made by Kazakhstan and its president first to prevent a split from arising in the Turkic-Slav axis and to "draw" the whole Central Asian region into the CIS and then to create an organizationally formalized and able-bodied commonwealth on the basis of constructive integration.

Press Criticizes Agreement

LD1607090593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Amangeldiy Akhmetalimov and Fedor Ignatov]

[Text] Almaty July 16 TASS—Some Kazakh newspapers published articles on Friday, heavily panning actions by the premiers of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus who decided to establish a tripartite economic alliance.

The political observer of the EGEMEN KAZAKHSTAN (SOVEREIGN KAZAKHSTAN) newspaper believes that the leaders of "the chosen states" used Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's ideas "to build a concerted economic space limited to three countries".

The observer expresses opinion that this action was taken in response to the establishment of an economic alliance of Turkic-speaking countries in Istanbul, which includes the Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan.

The observer stresses that integration processes in those countries are incomparable as to their scale with integration between the republics of the former Soviet Union.

The political observer of the KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper describes steps taken by the Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian leaders as "inconsistent" and "smacking of downright betrayal of friends, with whom they fought hardships together".

Nevertheless, articles in KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA and other periodicals express hope that "the guerrilla version of an economic alliance, despite some damage to mutual trust, will not stop integration between the former union republics, the need for which was bitterly felt by the republics for many decades".

Constitutional Court To Examine Deputies' Law

LD1507180993 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] The Constitutional Court on petition of the prosecutor general of the republic has instituted the proceedings in order to examine and verify the constitutional validity of several stipulations of Articles 33, 34, and 35 of the Law of the Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] On the Status of Peoples' Deputies in the Kazakh SSR.

The representatives of the Supreme Soviet petitioned for an additional legal state expert examination in view of doubts connected with the constitutional validity of the decisions made by them. The representatives of the president, as the party that had signed the Law on the Status of Peoples' deputies in the Kazakh SSR, had sided with the former petition and named specific experts of their choice.

The Constitutional Court complied with the request of both sides and put the examination off.

Japan Supplies Aid for Homeless

LD1507162493 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] The Japanese Government decided to grant urgent aid to the population of Kazakhstan. As was stated by Mr. Takunaga, first secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Kazakhstan, tents, blankets, and other things essential for people who have been left homeless will be delivered to the town of Atirau, formerly Guryev, from Japan by tomorrow evening.

Kyrgyzstan

International Aid to Bishkek Detailed

LD1507195793 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1040 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] This year 11 international financial agencies and 10 countries are allocating money to Kyrgyzstan. A loan equal to 85 million dollars is aimed at supporting the national currency. On privileged terms the country is getting 60 million dollars from the World Bank, the same amount is allocated by Japan with 2-3 percent annual interest, and over 40 million dollars are given in the form of technical counseling, education of specialists, and economic backing of projects. Turkey is sending grain worth 11 million dollars, the U.S. is giving grain and food products worth 104 million, and Switzerland, Denmark, and Netherlands are allocating 10 million dollars, of which half is a charitable donation.

Tajikistan

'Armed Group' Attacks 12th Border Post

LD1507125293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By correspondent Alisher Khodzhayev from Tajikistan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Khodzhayev] On 13 July at 0400, an armed group of about 400 men crossed the Pyandzh River and attacked the 12th Border Post of the Moscow Border Detachment. An unequal fight broke out, as there were only 47 defenders. They heroically beat off attack after attack until help arrived.

This is all that is left of the 12th Border Post. [Video shows aerial pictures of a mountainous location, tanks, helicopters, and military personnel on the ground; ruins and wrecks of vehicles and equipment; wounded being carried on stretchers.]

Now about something different. Besides the Tajik opposition, Afghan servicemen took part in the armed intrusion, and this has been proven. (Qozi Kobir), one of the high-ranking officials of the 55th Infantry Division of the Afghanistan Defense Ministry, was directly in charge of the operation.

According to verified information, 24 out of the 47 men staffing the post were killed, and 18 wounded were sent to the military hospital in Dushanbe.

Having sustained losses of 70-80 men and being rebuffed, the attackers retreated into Afghanistan.

Yesterday, Tajik Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov; Colonel General Vladimir Shlyakhtin, commander of the Russian Border Troops; and Russian Ambassador to Tajikistan Mechislav Senkevich visited the scene of the tragic conflicts.

[Begin Shlyakhtin recording] I confirm once again in the presence of the leader of Tajikistan that this was a deliberately prepared provocation. The opposition cannot sit still. It needs to take over power here. We need to strengthen the border posts both with personnel and equipment. We should be based on defending the state border. [end recording]

[Announcer] Our correspondent, whose report you have just seen, has reported over the phone that a group of Russian people's deputies have arrived in Dushanbe. They will have be able to familiarize themselves with the situation on the spot.

Border 'Relatively Quiet' Overnight

LD1607061393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0544 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Gordeyev]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—The last night on the Tajik-Afghan border in the area of the 12th border post where Russian border guards were attacked by Afghan mujahideen and gunmen of the Tajik Islamic opposition, was relatively quiet.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the headquarters of Russian frontier forces in Tajikistan that the situation at all the sections of the border is fully under control. Border guards are engaged in restoration work.

Parliament, Government Condemn Incursion

LD1607093993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0755 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 16 Jul—The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan issued a statement today categorically condemning the armed incursion carried out on Tajikistan's territory by the Islamic State of Afghanistan, carried out by Tajik followers of Islam with the support of the Afghan mojahedin.

As is known, on 13 July, a large group of guerrillas belonging to antigovernment armed formations, supported by the Afghan mojahedin and subunits of the Afghan Defense Ministry, broke through Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan along the Shuroabadskoye sector. Twenty-four Russian border guards lost their lives as a result of armed clashes. There are also heavy casualties among the civilian population.

Expressing grief about the heroic death of the border guards and soldiers of the 201st Russian Motor-Rifle Division deployed in Tajikistan, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan state that such actions on the part of the Islamic State of Afghanistan "deal an irreparable blow to the good-neighborly relations between the two countries, are fraught with unpredictable consequences, and can lead to an escalation of the conflict that can assume a regional dimension."

The document states that responsibility for this undisguised aggression by the Afghan side lies fully with the extremist groups in Afghanistan which "in alliance with the Afghan opposition's armed formations wish to hamper the country's development, the process of spiritual rebirth of society, and the establishment of Tajikistan as a democratic, law-governed secular state."

The statement points out that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan view the latest barbarous attack as an act of aggression against sovereign Tajikistan and as a direct encroachment upon the country's territorial integrity and security, which run counter to the principles of the UN Charter. It emphasizes that should these military provocations reoccur, the Tajik leadership reserves all rights to take the necessary measures in keeping with the UN Charter and the collective security treaty signed by the member-countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The document expresses gratitude to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Supreme Soviet for their support for the Tajik people during a difficult period. It expressed the hope and confidence that the parliaments and governments of the CIS countries will, within the framework of the collective security treaty, fulfill their obligations arising out of the Minsk accords and will adopt resolute measures to maintain peace in Tajikistan and defend the Tajik-Afghan border.

Parliament Issues Condolences

LD1507200093 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 15 Jul 93

['Message' issued by the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan; date not given]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan express their profound sorrow at the tragic deaths of officers and troops of the border guards and servicemen of the 201st Division of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, and also for the loss of life among the inhabitants of Sarigar village, Shurabad rayon, on 13 July, as a result of border violations by antigovernment formations and Afghan mojahedin, and express condolences to all their parents and relatives.

The soldiers stood heroically against the enemy to the last drop of blood and did not let them carry out their sinister intentions. The people of the republic will not forget the good names of these heroes.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Tajikistan Government are taking all measures to reliably and comprehensively protect our borders.

Government Seen in Panic Over Attacks

MK1607085093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 3

[Oleg Panfilov report under "Tajikistan" rubric under general headline: "Parliament Advises Kozyrev To Resume Talks With Afghanistan"]

[Text] The upbeat assurances by Tajik authorities about the inviolability of the Tajik-Afghan border have given way to panic related to the events of the last three days. Constant incursions by small groups from Afghanistan have allowed the intransigent Tajik opposition to muster fairly impressive formations inside the republic. In fact, up to 1,000 combatants are now concentrated in Tajikistan, scattered in small groups around several districts. Their combat ability is proven by the armed confrontation that has been going on for over six months now, and without the presence of Russian border troops and detachments of

the 201st Motorized Infantry Division, the Tajik Government would hardly have been able to hold out for so long. Whatever Dushanbe officialdom might be saying, all of its "people's support" rests exclusively on combatants of the People's Front, special National Security Committee forces consisting of mercenaries, and small armed forces.

At any rate, information provided to a correspondent at the Tajikistan Islamic movement's press center differs from reports circulated by Russian agencies from Dushanbe. At least the 13th Russian outpost by the evening of 14 July was still in the hands of the opposition. Heavy combat losses are also reported among border troops and government formations, six of which voluntarily defected to the detachment under Mullo Abdurakhim's command. This warlord was born and raised in Kulyab and was one of the popular priests competing with Imam Khaydar Sharifov.

The Islamic movement has categorically rejected a statement by Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov that as a result of an opposition attack 200 civilians were killed. In fact, the press center maintains, fighting went on three kilometers from the settlement of Sarigor and when government aircraft began bombing, they stayed at high altitude for fear of being shot down. Most of the shells they fired hit Sarigor. What is the most dangerous for the present leadership is that the strategically important Shuroabad district not far from Kulyab, the base of the present government, can become a springboard for further onslaught by the opposition. In this situation a substantial role is played by Russia, which has signed a treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance, providing for military support for the present Tajik regime. General Grachev can also use Article 51 of the UN Charter, which was often cited during the war in Afghanistan. This must be why the Russian defense minister in his 14 July statement spoke about protecting Russian-speakers and the population in general. There have been no interethnic clashes in Tajikistan, however, except for a few provocations. As for the protection of the Tajik population, as is known, it is divided into those who have taken the side of the government and those who were forced by tanks and aircraft into Afghanistan.

Russian Forces To Defend Border; Grachev To Visit

NC1607085493 Paris AFP in English 0135 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By Stephane Bentura]

[Text] Moscow, July 16 (AFP)—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev was due to land in Tajikistan Friday after parliament here gave Russian forces the go-ahead to defend the central Asian state from Afghanistan-based rebels.

Announcing Grachev's trip to the Tajik capital Dushanbe, Russian Deputy Defence Minister General Konstantin Kobets said Thursday that intelligence reports indicated that some 6,000 Tajik rebels and Afghani fighters were in the border zone.

The militants have attacked a series of Tajik border posts this week, destroying one completely Wednesday and attacking another Thursday.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin called one such attack, in which 300 people were killed, "a strike against Russian national security." Tajikistan is a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Kobets said the fighting demanded quick re-inforcements, adding that Russia may deploy aircraft and artillery to hit the rebels bases in northeast Afghanistan.

The Russian motorised division in the area could be beefed up by offering soldiers "attractive contracts" to volunteer for service in Tajikistan, Interfax news agency quoted Kobets as saying. Most of the division's 200 tanks are standing idle for lack of troops to man them.

Russian lawmakers voted Thursday 176 to 1 in favour of the government taking "all necessary measures to protect and ensure the safety" of border guards deployed on the Tajik-Afghan border.

The parliament also called for renewed talks between Moscow and Kabul to end the cross-border raids, and appealed to the Afghan authorities to take measures to stop the attacks.

The Izvestia newspaper here said more than 1,000 militants armed with Chinese weapons had attacked the borderpost which was devastated Wednesday.

The victims included up to 200 inhabitants of the nearby village of Sarigor, 22 Russian borderguards and 70 Islamic guerrillas, Tajik sources said.

The rebels are Muslims opposed to the pro-communist leadership in Dushanbe who were chased out of Tajikistan in a bloody government crackdown last year. They subsequently found refuge in mojahedin-run camps in the north Afghanistan.

Obvservers have pointed out that Russia's relations with Afghanistan could be severely strained by any retaliation against the rebel bases, particularly as they lie in territory controlled by Golboddin Hekmatyar, the Afghan prime minister and leader of the radical Islamic group Hezb-e-Islami.

Russia sent troops to the Tajik-Afghan border last year as part of a joint CIS operation against Tajik rebels and the flow of arms and drugs from Afghanistan.

Defense Minister Denies Russian 'Strike' on Afghan Village

LD1607092393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0808 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul—"Russian troops stationed in Tajikistan have carried out no bombardments of Afghan-inhabited locations in the past few days," an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today over the telephone by Major General Aleksandr Shishlyannikov, Tajikistan's defense

minister. He thus rejected Kabul-sourced claims that an artillery strike was carried out by Russian troops on Thursday against an Afghan village in Takhar Province.

For its part, the Russian Foreign Ministry has not confirmed a report from Kabul about a protest note from the Afghan foreign policy department about the incident. "No such document has reached us," a high-ranking Russian Federation Foreign Ministry spokesman declared.

Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, arrives in Tajikistan today. Aleksandr Shishlyannikov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the heads of the military departments of the two friendly countries will discuss a range of issues concerned with reinforcing the Tajik-Afghan border.

CIS Supreme Command Views Border Attack as 'Hostile Provocation'

LD1407171793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1625 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jul—The Supreme Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces regards the attack by the Afghan mojahedin on the 12th border post as "an attempted armed encroachment upon Tajikistan's territorial integrity and a hostile provocation against the Russian border guards." A statement circulated today by the Supreme Command's public relations department says that in accordance with Article 51 of UN Charter and Article 4 of the collective security treaty, the Commonwealth member-states "have the right to take efficient measures to ensure the Republic of Tajikistan's security."

Uzbekistan

Russia's Volskiy Praises Karimov's Economic Program

LD1507162993 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1113 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov and Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the International Association of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, who is staying in Uzbekistan, held a news conference for the mass media at which A. Volskiy noted that the program of economic transformations proposed by President I. Karimov is not only viable, but also guarantees a painless transfer of Uzbekistan to market relations. It is especially important, stressed A. Volskiy, that reforms are carried out in Uzbekistan whereby politics do not dominate economics and there is no hard dictatorship by the authorities over producers, which exists in other republics of the former Union.

"I envy the inhabitants of Uzbekistan. Their life is stable and predictable, which cannot be said about the Russians," said A.Volskiy, replying to a question from one of the journalists.

Birlik Leader Critical of Karimov, Moscow, West

AU1507161693 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 15 Jul 93 p 8

[Report on interview with Abdurakhim Pulatov, "leader of the Uzbek opposition movement," by Wolfgang Koydl; place and date not given: "A New Brezhnev Doctrine for Central Asia"]

[Text] The regime's warning was unmistakable and menacing: Abdurakhim Pulatov was attacked by members of the Uzbek security service and almost beaten to death with an iron rod in broad daylight in Tashkent. This happened a little more than a year ago, and shortly afterwards, the chairman of the democratic opposition movement, Birlik (Unity), drew these conclusions: The 47-year-old man went into exile, first to Moscow and then to Baku, Azerbaijan. Three months ago, he and his family were granted asylum in Istanbul.

The Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan's quick relapse to totalitarian structures after a short phase of democratic renewal cannot be illustrated more dramatically. "Today, President Islam Karimov has set up a regime that is worse than Leonid Brezhnev's," Pulatov said. "It is coming close to Stalin's methods." The former communist party head of Uzbekistan has indeed managed to silence the opposition. According to Pulatov, the second chairman of Birlik experienced the same bad ordeal as he did: On 1 May, Shukhrat Ismatulayev was beaten up with an iron rod and has been in a hospital ever since.

Pulatov, who turned the movement established in the mid-eighties into the driving force of the Uzbek independence and democracy movement three years ago, is also criticizing Moscow and Western Europe. "Russia prefers the current regimes in Uzbekistan and other Central Asian or Caucasian republics to the independence movements," Pulatov noted, adding that there are subjective and objective reasons for it: One is that the old members of the nomenclature who are now exercising power in nationalist clothes, are well known in Moscow and have good contacts in the Russian capital from the old days. The other thing is that the Kremlin fears that, under the leadership of the forces now in opposition, Uzbekistan, Turkmenia, and Tajikistan might turn their back on Russia and move closer to Asia.

"Russia has lost eastern Europe and the Baltics," Pulatov said. "Now one is trying to establish a kind of new Warsaw Pact, a new council for mutual economic assistance for what has remained in the CIS." For this "new edition of the Soviet Brezhnev Doctrine," Moscow is now even putting up with supporting dictatorships.

The Birlik chairman accuses the West of tolerating having sand thrown in its eyes by President Karimov. "In the West he is painting the specter of an alleged Islamic threat on the wall, against which only he can offer protection," Pulatov explains. But this is actually nothing but a pretext, because there is not yet any serious fundamental danger in

Uzbekistan. "Where should it come from, anyway," Pulatov said, "considering that we have been brought up in the Soviet way for three of four generations—as atheists." Although Birlik also has a religious wing, the movement's program is calling for a Turkish-style secular state: "That is the model we have to opt for," Pulatov emphasized.

However, the head of Birlik admits that what is at the moment only a "theoretic Islamic threat" might rapidly become reality—due to Karimov's policy. "If the president continues to try to destroy the democratic forces, he will only strengthen the extremist forces, which will then become Islamic fundamentalist forces."

Armenia

Foreign Ministry Praises Raffaelli Act of 'Good Will'

LD1507121593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan July 15 TASS—Five Azeri hostages, including one woman and three children, who had been kept in Nagorno-Karabakh, were brought to Yerevan, and then sent by a plane of the Swiss Red Cross to Baku under the mediation of the Armenian authorities.

This humane step was made possible by Mario Raffaelli, Italian senator and chairman of the Minsk CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) group for a Karabakh settlement who is now in the region of the conflict.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry has appraised this action by Raffaelli as an act of good will, noting that Azeris "were sheltered by the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities during military operations."

Armenia is closely following the Raffaelli mission, the Armenian Foreign Ministry press service said in a communication circulated today. The document says that Yerevan will give its final evaluation of this mission following the summing up of the results of Raffaelli's Baku consultations, as well as the final outcome of his trip.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev, Raffaelli Hold News Conference 14 Jul

NC1507204593 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1053 GMT 14 Jul 93

[News conference by Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and Mario Raffaelli, chairman of the CSCE Minsk conference, with local and foreign correspondents, moderated by an unidentified moderator, in Baku on 14 July—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Moderator] Ali Saffet Guseynov, representative of the newspaper AZERBAIJAN ORDUSU [Azerbaijan's Army].

[Guseynov] I will direct my question to Mario Raffaelli. Mr. Raffaelli, you said peace is the only way out of the war. But peace can only be discussed if the positions of the warring sides are established. I mean the aggressor and the victim should be established. The war has continued for over five years. None of the influential countries and none of the influential organizations, including the CSCE, which you represent, has taken an initiative to describe Armenia as the aggressor in the war. You visited the frontlines during your visit. You witnessed the acts of violence the Armenians have committed against Azerbaijan's citizens. Will you at least try to describe Armenia as the aggressor in the international talks or meetings you will attend? Thank you.

[passage omitted]

[Moderator] Thomas Clotes, representative of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

[Clotes, in English] I will ask this in English as opposed to Azeri or Russian for my own sake. My question is partially answered by the answer you just gave to the gentleman's question before me, but specifically, the chairman of parliament, Mr. Aliyev, has consistently used the phrase Armenian forces are occupying parts of Azerbaijan. Do you agree with that description?

[Raffaelli, in Italian with superimposed translation into English] Here I will give a simple reply. In order to avoid [word indistinct] this particular mechanism, we have made a proposition, which has been accepted. We have proposed this plan. One of the main topics of the work of observers will be that of verifying if there is a presence of foreign troops. If there are such foreign troops, they must withdraw. The term foreign troops is a general one that includes every possibility—mercenaries and others.

[Aliyev] First, we must establish whether or not Armenian forces are deployed there. If that is established, then their eviction from that area is a delicate subject.

[passage omitted]

[Moderator] Maile Rakhim Kyzy, representative of the newspaper YENI MUSAVAT [New Equality]. [passage omitted]

[Rakhim Kyzy] Mr. Geydar Aliyev, I wish to direct my second question to you. Those who wished to prove that the Elchibey government was unsuccessful have pointed to that government's misfortunes in the war. But we know the war is not only between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It has a wider scope. I wish to ask you to reveal how much of Azerbaijan's territory has been occupied and how many of our people have been killed or taken prisoner since the new government was established. Who should be blamed for all that? What is the role of international politics and the existing government in the tragic incidents?

[Aliyev] What new government?

[Rakhim Kyzy] The government in power.

[Aliyev] When did the new government come to power? You should first establish how much of our territory was occupied at the time of the former government. You should establish the number of people who were killed and the number of people who became refugees. We can then discuss what you have asked.

[Rakhim Kyzy] Mr. Aliyev, I meant the following: The war between Armenia and Azerbaijan is spreading. What is the role of international forces in the defeats we have suffered since your administration came to power? To what extent can your administration be blamed? That was my question.

[Aliyev] I explained in the news conference I held earlier that the Armenian Armed Forces attacked Azerbaijan's territory from various directions from 12 to 28 June. You

know the government that was in power then. Abulfaz Elchibey left Baku on the night of 17 June, but he remained president. Is that not so? The firing was halted to an extent on 28 June. As you know, the firing resumed on 2 July. Attacks were launched on Agdam on 4 July. The enemy units advanced through several [word indistinct], but they retreated later. Discussing this is not important now. Nor is there a need to analyze the involvement of political forces or individual countries. I recommend that you study the developments in the past year, since a new president came to power in Azerbaijan. You should establish how much of our territory has been occupied, how many people have been killed, how many towns have been lost, and how many people have become refugees. You should also establish the approach of foreign countries and international organizations. I can reply to your question after that.

[Moderator] (Yevlakh) Samakya, representative of ASSOCIATED PRESS.

[Samakya, in English] I shall direct my question to Mr. Raffaelli. During your visit to both Nagorno-Karabakh and earlier to Agdam, were both sides fully observing the temporary cease-fire? My second question is could you elaborate on the Nagorno-Karabakh objection to the schedule and the new proposals—that is, the three proposals that you mentioned? Thank you.

[Raffaelli, in Italian with superimposed translation into English] My first reply is a general one. And I wanted to reply about the clearing of the several points of the timetable. But do not regard the chronology, both concrete manner and both in terms of such a timetable. The question of objections regard as a destination on several concrete points. [sentence as heard] For example, in the agreement there are words that say that the return to Kelbadzhar of Azeri parties must happen only with light weapons. So they asked us what does the light weapons mean? And, it was said that such a definition was ambiguous in its nature. In that occasion, it was sufficient to explain that there is a definition of a military kind in the international rules of CSCE that explains what heavy weapons mean. And the definition that has been put into our timetable means that they cannot bring with them the heavy weapons that are defined in a very exact manner.

Another point was how it was possible to [words indistinct] of the mines. The mines being everywhere and these [word indistinct] they asked what will happen in the case of an accident. They meant that the mines were those eventually in the Kelbadzhar region. And that it was intended that the guarantee comprised the [words indistinct]. In the technical terminology, but here I go after the terminology of Mr. [name indistinct], member of our delegation. With my [word indistinct] imperfections, and you must excuse me for that. I understand that there is a map indicating the places of the mines and give their assistance in removing them and be responsible for this. The last example I should give on such objections is: They said how is it possible that the monitors shall do effectively their jobs? They have no concrete and precise terms of reference. And, [name indistinct], who represents CSCE, has explained that terms of reference shall arrive soon because the CSCE is working on it at the present time. That will be immediately after the start of the timetable. For this reason I told about the objections that can be solved. If there is no negative disposition, which I hope there is not and does not exist on their side.

[Samakya, in English] You have not answered my first question about whether both sides respected fully the cease-fire, and if I may just add, when do we expect the timetable to be implemented?

[Raffaelli, in Italian with superimposed translation into English] Do you mean the governments?

[Samakya, in English] No, if both sides, both fighting sides, fully respected the temporary cease-fire during your visit to Agdam and to Nagorno-Karabakh? And, if I may add one more question, when do you expect the timetable to be implemented? Thank you.

[Raffaelli, in Italian with superimposed translation into English] The timetable and the timing of the timetable, I answered this in my previous answer. In our letter, we shall take a few days. These days are needed so that the Nagorno-Karabakh party can say their yes. And, the concrete start of the timetable is three days after. What do you mean about the cease-fire was respected? We do not understand the substance of the question.

[Samakya, in English] I mean, the temporary cease-fire for your passage into Nagorno-Karabakh. Was there any fighting while you were there?

[Raffaelli, in Italian with translation into English] It was respected fully.

[passage omitted]

Aliyev 'Not Intimidated' by Personal Threats

LD1607110993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1053 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, 16 Jul—"I am not intimidated by attempts on my life, and I am prepared to give it up for the sake of my people," Geydar Aliyev, acting president of Azerbaijan and chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, stated today at a sitting of the National Assembly which is continuing its work. He told the deputies that he has information that an assassination plot is being prepared.

Geydar Aliyev's statement came after some deputies remarked that it is difficult to give objective testimony on "the Ganja events of 4 June," because of constant threats to their families.

Ganja Commission Completes Investigation, Reports Results

Concludes Crises, Foreign Forces To Blame

NC1507154093 Baku TURAN in English 1312 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 15 (TURAN)—Today deputate committee on the inquiry of June 4 developments in Ganja,

finishing the preliminary investigation, stated "the political responsibility" for the bloodshed in Ganja June 4 of President Elchibey as well as the former chairman of the SS [Supreme Soviet] Isa Kamberov, former Prime-Minister Panakh Guseynov, Secretary of State Ali Kerimov, Procurator General Ikhtiyar Shirinov, Minister of the National Security Fakhreddin Tahmazov, Minister of Internal Affairs Abdulla Allahverdiyev and Defense Minister Dadash Rzayev.

This statement was made today at Milli Mejlis by the chairman of the committee Matlab Mutalimov, during reporting on the results of the preliminary investigation.

Together with this, the chairman of the committee M. Mutalimov noted, that no one of 125 person that pass through investigation didn't confirm the version of the direct participation of Elchibey in Ganja events.

M. Mutalimov suggested that the Procurator's Office of the republic institutes proceedings against the former Prime-Minister P. Guseynov, Procurator General I. Shirinov, Defense Minister Dr. Rzayev and the Commander of the Internal Forces F. Gajiyev as the direct organizers and the managers of the operation on disarmament of the brigade.

The chairman of the committee also stated that, the present Prime-Minister Surat Guseynov, the former commander of the insurgent brigade [words indistinct] the committee confirmed the fact that the brigade [words indistinct] but to [word indistinct] mind the political leadership of the country didn't use all the possible peaceful methods to settle the conflict.

In conclusion of the deputate committee the preliminary information of Surat Guseynov's supporters about 69 servicemen killed in Ganja June 4 was disproved. To the checked trustworthy information only 23 people were killed and 130 people were wounded, that are mostly the members of the units reliable to the government. The version about the surprise attack of the armoured government forces on the insurgent brigade was also disproved.

The committee came to a conclusion that, the events in Ganja were the result of the political, military, social-economic crisis and destructional activities of the number of political parties, as well as the influence of the foreign forces.

Blames Elchibey, Others

NC1507143293 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1331 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, 15.07.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—[Words indistinct] president bear the responsibility for the bloody events in Ganja, this is conclusion of the parliamentary investigation commission read out by Mr. Metleb Mutalimov, chairman of this commission. President of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Elchibey knew everything. And though he didn't sign any decree on disarmament in Ganja, he didn't prevent the tragedy. Mr. Panakh Guseynov, prime-minister of Azerbaijan, was guiding the operation directly. Mr. Isa Kamberov, speaker of the parliament took an active part in this operation. The force-keeping ministers their sub-units were the main executive of this operation. Chairman of the commission Mr. Metleb Mutalimov expressed his personal opinion that Surat Guseynov also bears responsibility for tragic events. According to the information of this commission, the number of the persons, killed in Ganja tragedy doesn't coincide with the primary information, the investigation will be occupied in finding it out. The reports concerning governmental troops which crushed the servicemen of the Unit 709 haven't been confirmed. The MP's [members of parliament] began to discuss the conclusions of the commission. Mr. Geydar Aliyev, interrupting discussion, told the MP's that, according to Mr. Vakif Novruzov, interior minister, the armed defenders of Mr. Iskender Khamidov, former interior minister gathered in front of the Supreme Soviet's building. Mr. Geydar Aliyev demanded Iskender Khamidov to remove them Mr. Iskender Khamidov denied that he has such armed detachments. The interval for an hour and a half was declared. During this interval all the persons, mentioned by the commission will be invited and they will be present at the session. Among these persons—the former state secretary, former prime-minister, defence minister, interior minister.

'Fratricide', Guseynov 'Responsibility' Noted

NC1507170893 Baku AZERTAC in English 1622 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Baku, July 15 (AZERTAC)—[passage omitted] It is ascertained that 35 people not 69 as it was informed earlier were killed and 130 were wounded during the armed conflict in Ganja. The court of inquiry made proposition that the victims families ought to granted pension and the destruction in Ganja ought to rebuilt at the state expense.

According to the conclusion of the court of inquiry, the occurrence in Ganja on the 4th of June is the result of the Azerbaijani leaderships mistakes which have led to clash between powers and opposition and the occured tragedy is fratricide. It was noted that all those events had taken place in circumstances of political and economic crisis in Azerbaijan, loss of confidence in the authorities, activity of some political parties and movements and as a result of people's disenchantment with military failures.

According to the opinion of the chairman of the court of inquiry Matlab Mutalimov, Surat Guseynov must (?assume he) has a political responsibility for the tragic occurrence.

Baku Details National Assembly Session Agenda 15 Jul

NC1507185993 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan National Assembly resumed its work today. Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, opened the morning session and proposed including the following on the agenda:

1. The report by the Deputies Investigation Committee on the incidents in Ganja on 4 June.

2. [Words indistinct] relating to criminal proceedings against deputy Shirinov.

3. [Words indistinct] relating to criminal proceedings against people's deputy (Ekperov).

4. Talks held between Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, and Mario Raffaelli, the head of the CSCE Minsk conference.

5. An appeal made by the members of the Supreme Court.

6. Reports on [word indistinct] and charity work.

Later, deputies [name indistinct], E. Guseynov, Tofik Gasymov, and [name indistinct] Aliyev put forward several proposals.

The session heard a report by the Deputies Investigation Committee on the incidents in Ganja on 4 June. Maslahat Mutalibov addressed the session on the issue. Several points were revealed on the incidents in Ganja. Later, Maslahat Mutalibov replied to several questions on the information submitted to the session by the Deputies Investigation Committee. [passage indistinct]

The National Assembly will continue its work on 16 July. Today's session was covered by the radio and television network.

Former Officials Review Ganja Events With Assembly

LD1507173893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1714 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS and AZERTAC correspondents]

[Text] Baku July 15 TASS—"I received an order to disarm the 709th Brigade, which, actually, sparked off the Ganja events, directly from President Abulfaz Elchibey by telephone," former republican Defence Minister Dadash Rzayev told the National Assembly of the republic at an afternoon meeting on Thursday [15 July].

According to the general, he had repeatedly received an order to disarm the army unit also from ex-premier Panakh Guseynov.

Rzayev said he had not been able to reveal the entire truth during testimony to the deputies' commission for inquiry into the Ganja events because he and his family had continuously received threats from unknown persons. Rzayev described the Ganja developments at a "blight" on the republic's Armed Forces.

According to prosecutor-general Ali Omarov and military prosecutor Rovshan Aliyev, the investigation of the Ganja events is not yet over but already now there are enough proofs of the guilt of Panakh Guseynov and former prosecutor-general Ikhtiyar Shirinov.

The prosecutor-general emphasised that "shortly before the tragic events, the former premier stated that the 709th Brigade should be done away with and that the power of the state should be demonstrated."

"There is testimony that on June 5, the day after the Ganja events, President Abulfaz Elchibey offered high positions to high-ranking military officers on condition that they assume the direction of an operation to disarm the 'recalcitrant' brigade," Rovshan Aliyev told the National Assembly.

Reports by former National Security Minister Fakhradin Takhmazov and Nureddin Sadykhov, former chief of the General Staff of the republic's Defence Ministry, were also heard at the parliament meeting which, by a decision of the deputies, is to continue its work on Friday.

A number of top officials of the state who, as it was pointed out, are implicated in the Ganja events, did not appear at the parliament meeting despite the invitations sent to them.

Political Opposition Said To Continue

NC1507134493 Baku TURAN in English 1146 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Spelling of names as received]

[Text] Baku July 15 (TURAN)—Lately political opposition in different Azerbaijani regions has become stronger.

So, leader of so-called Talish-Mugan Republic Aliakram Humbatov has intensified the pressure on his political adversaries in south regions of the Republic. As TURAN agency had been informed in the press-service of Musavat party, yesterday several tens of Aliakram Umbatovs military supporters seized the building of executive power in Bilesuvar region 250 km to the south-west of Baku. The same source reported, that local population, protesting against such actions, was dispersed, number of PFA [Azerbaijani People's Front] and Musavat party supporters, who occupied responsible offices, were arrested.

Several days earlier, the same attempts of Aliakram Humbatov to seize the power in neighbouring Masalli region were failure. It should be pointed, that two days ago Aliakram Humbatov was in Baku and had met with Geydar Aliyev. There is no information about the details of talks. Along with this, right after his meeting with Aliyev, A. Humbatov intensified the pressure on political adversaries of present regime on places.

At the same time, Surat Guseynov supporters have made a number of attempts to seize the power in two western Azerbaijani regions Kazakh and Akstafa, authorities of which are still loyal to Abulfaz Elchibey. Last Saturday, commandants of two subdivisions of national army captured the buildings of executive power in these regions. They referred to Surat Guseynovs order, who supposedly had appointed them to those offices.

To all appearances, simultaneous persecuting of present regime supporters in several regions of Azerbaijan is not accidental. If take into account the fact, that lately serious disagreements came over between Geydar Aliyev and

opposition leader Etibar Mamedov, one can forecast further aggravating of political opposition in Azerbaijan.

Defense Ministry Cited on Armenian Attacks 14-15 Jul

NC1507162093 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1331 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, 15 Jul (ASSA-IRADA)—Today, on July 15 since morning Armenian troops have been firing on the villages Gushchular, Garadzhally and Sur of Dzhebrail districts, ASSA-IRADA was told at the Defence Ministry. Yesterday evening from the occupied village Divanallar of Fizuli district 3 Armenian tanks launched firing at positions of Azerbaijan Army in the village Yaglyvend of the same district. Agdam was subjected to the missile firing again.

Forces Counterattack in Agdam

OW1607020593 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 12 July 93

[A. Sinitsyn video report; from the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] The Armenian advance set out in three directions at daybreak of 4 July. The enemy managed to cut through our lines by noon of the same day, and fighting began in the city itself. Almost all neighboring villages were occupied by the enemy. For hours we thought that Agdam would share the fate of Khodzhly and Shusha if reinforcements did not arrive. This was very real, and fortunately our armed forces came in time. It might be too early to talk about a fundamental turnabout, but several villages of strategic importance have been liberated during these few days.

[Begin recording] [Sinitsyn] We are shooting this video on 9 July. My interlocutor is Colonel Eldar Aliyev. Comrade Colonel, what is the situation as of today?

[Colonel Aliyev] I want to report, to say that we are in a very good spirits, the brigade fighters—I mean the officers and the personnel—all say with assurance that we will advance, that victory is ours. We believe in it, we believe. The morale of my officers and fighters is very good, and also we get support from all sides. [video shows brief shots of tank travelling on dirt road, cuts to show an interview with Major Gundat Aliyev, who speaks in Russian]

[Sinitsyn] Now, I would like to present to you Major Gundat Aliyev. Let us speak concretely. We are now in Moganly village. How are events developing today?

[Major Aliyev] It all depends on the situation. The men are all ready to begin an advance...

[Sinitsyn interrupting] So, if an order to attack comes now, we will advance?

[Major Aliyev] Correct. It all depends on the order. If there is such an order, the men will advance.

[Sinitsyn] Thank you.

[Colonel Aliyev interrupting] I would like to add a few words. During this time—during the last three days—we have hit nine enemy tanks, and three BMP's [infantry combat vehicles]. This is a big achievement, you understand?. In just three days—it is a big achievement. [end recording]

Our main losses were among the civilians during these few troubled July days. For example, 119 people suffered wounds of various degrees in the village of (Shekhbabaly). Ten peaceful residents were killed. But although the enemy is itself bleeding nowadays, it has no intention of giving up. We encountered stubborn pockets of resistance in the liberated villages. The enemy destroys houses and kills livestock upon leaving its positions. The enemy simply had no time to destroy the village of Moganly that we are currently filming. A powerful attack by our forces blasted the enemy out of its stronghold.

[Begin recording] [Sinitsyn] We are now in the village of Moganly, which was recently retaken from the Armenians. The officers next to me are Mikhman Bakhshaliyev and Dosali Gadzhiyev, and their comrades. I have a question for you: Was the battle to take this village a hard one?

[Bakhshaliyev] Actually, it was difficult because they had more equipment. We counted nine tanks. They first moved to a place called Gozlubakh. From there, they advanced with three tanks and one BMP. Our troops took their position there. [The Armenians] first hit the position with tanks, and the infantry marched behind. Simultaneously...

[Sinitsyn interrupting] How many infantry were there?

[Bakhshaliyev] Approximately 100 people. So, simultaneously with the Gozlubakh position, the rest of the tanks started shelling the villages of Shekhlebakh and Moganly. Of course, the artillery also shelled us, and our boys did not find it easy to repulse all this armor. We were helped by a trick we pulled off: our boys mined one of their roads beforehand, a tank hit the mine and blew up, and the rest—well, they ran away.

[Gadzhiyev] They behaved well in battle. They fought like men.

[Sinitsyn] In other words, as their commander, you are happy with them?

[Gadzhiyev] Of course I am. [end recording]

I was particularly interested to know who we were fighting. The adversary cannot really be termed Armenian outfits. The majority of those who fight us are mercenaries, who are noted for their cruelty. You already know about the atrocities committed at the Agdam psychiatric hospital, which was held by the enemy for several days. It is not by accident that we remembered it. [video shows shots of a dead dog in street, Sinitsyn talking to a group of fighters and civilians]

[Begin recording] [Sinitsyn] We have just found a prayer book in this smashed house. It was printed in Belgium by the LIFE WITH GOD [zhizn s bogom] publication. It obviously belonged to the occupants who raided this village. Do you not find it amazing that people who carry

a prayer book with them commit such horrible crimes, to which we all are witness. Let us take a close look at this. [video shows a fighter holding up the prayer book and commenting on it]

[Fighter] I think that this belonged not so much to the Armenian troops, but rather, to mercenaries who were here.

[Sinitsyn] I think so, too.

[Fighter] The fact that it has been printed in Belgium already signifies something. Do you not think so?

[Sinitsyn] Yes, I also think so. This is obviously neither an orthodox nor a catholic prayer book. [end recording]

We have found evidence of drug use in the looted village of (Kingerli)—you can see it for yourself. [video shows a room with scattered clothes and furniture] The people who fight us are high on (promedol), ephedrine, and opium; which also means that their instinct for self preservation is repressed. One must admit that the cruel and treacherous enemy has no mercy on itself either. However, the first victories of our boys are even more significant and valuable. The adversary is especially bothered by our artillery, which performs with utmost accuracy. The enemy is deathly afraid of it.

[Begin recording] [Sinitsyn] We are now among our artillery troops who have just finished shelling. Here is their commander Chengiz Bayramov. So how do the gunners, the gods of war, fight?

[Bayramov] As I see it, everything is normal and well, thanks to our boys who help here. They help and we—how shall I say it? We are showing them that the Azerbaijanis will never be—how do you say it?

[Sinitsyn] Will never be under Armenian occupation.

[Bayramov] Yes, never. I know...I believe that our victory will come soon. Approximately...[pauses] I cannot say when but there will soon be victory at Khankendl. [end recording]

We will keep you posted of any developments. Our film crews will again travel to the front line in the next few days. However, one thing has become clear to us: The history of this war is no longer dictated by the adversary, and units commanded by Colonel Aliyev are capable of not only resisting but also of smashing any opponent.

Transport Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia

NC1507143993 Baku TURAN in English 1146 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Baku July 15 (TURAN)—July 15 in Moscow was signed intergovernmental agreement on transport cooperation between Russia and Azerbaijan. TURAN agency had been informed about it in Azerbaijani plenipotentiary representation in Moscow.

The agreement concerns transportation of passengers and cargo between countries and also the matters of transit transportation to the thirds countries. From Azeri side agreement was signed by Vice- Premier A. Tahmazov, from Russian side by Minister of Transport V. Yefimov.

[In a related report, Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri at 1700 GMT on 14 July adds the following: "The Azerbaijani Council of Ministers press center has informed an AZERTAC correspondent that the agreement will provide for the transport of freight and passengers between the two countries. It will also provide for the transit of vehicles through Azerbaijan and Russia to the third countries."]

Georgia

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit

LD1507190893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi July 15 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov arrived in Tbilisi on Thursday to meet Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze. The talks between them will focus on the situation in Abkhazia and ways of settlement of the Georgian- Abkhazian conflict. On Wednesday [14 July], Pastukhov visited Gudauta and held talks on this problem with chairman of the Abkhazian Parliament Vladislav Ardzinba.

It was previously announced that there exists a draft of a bilateral agreement on ceasefire in Abkhazia and a mechanism for control over its implementation. However, the signing of the agreement was postponed since the Abkhazian side had made a number of additional demands shortly before the agreement was to be signed. In particular, the Abkhazian side insists that the agreement should include provisions envisaging that the Abkhazian parliament, led by Vladislav Ardzinba, begin its activities in Sukhumi, and that the Council of Ministers led by Tamaz Nadareishvily and other governing bodies of local Georgian administration be abolished.

Apart from thus, the Abkhazian side demanded the complete withdrawal of all Georgian military formations from Abkhazia, although the draft agreement provides for the presence of one interior regiment from each side in the zone of the conflict and their dislocation in Gudauta and Gali confined to barracks.

The Georgian side suggests that these demands be discussed at the next round of talks after the ceasefire is achieved, while the discussion of the withdrawal of the regiment, mentioned in the agreement, is out of the question since this regiment will be made up of local residents.

Under the present circumstances representatives from Russia, who take part in the negotiating process as mediators, are making efforts to achieve the signing of the earlier coordinated agreement.

Meets With Shevardnadze

LD1607100893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and Boris Pastukhov, the Russian president's special envoy, discussed settling the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict in Tbilisi late on Thursday evening [15 July]. No details of the talks have been reported.

In an interview to correspondents, Boris Pastukhov stated that the search for new ways to settle the conflict continues and that they should be agreed to by the confronting sides.

The Russian president's special envoy held talks with Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhazian leader, in Gudauta on 14 July, INTERFAX reported.

Russian Company Restores Phone Link

LD1507172093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] After three days of almost complete disconnection, the Russian Intertelecom joint-stock company of the Russian Ministry of Communication has restored Georgia's international telephone channels. Amiran Shalamberidze, head of the Tbilisi international telephone station, reported this to SAKINFORM.

Azerbaijan's Aliyev Sends Letter to Shevardnadze

LD1507134593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev has sent a letter to Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze. The letter says:

Dear Eduard Amvrosiyevich,

Let me thank you sincerely for your congratulatory message on my election as chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Azeri people have been associated with the Georgian people through centuries of friendship and neighborly relations. I believe high-level cooperation between our countries and parliaments will always contribute to the welfare and prosperity of our two countries and peoples.

At this time we should use all our energy to guarantee full protection for our citizens of international norms of rights [as heard], human rights, and democratic changes.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed] Geydar Aliyev

Shevardnadze Relieves Head of Bolnisi Rayon of Duties

LD1507150593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Here is a decree by the Georgian head of state on the implementation of measures to improve the existing situation in Bolnisi and Dmanisi Rayons.

Because of the complex socioeconomic and crime situation in Bolnisi Rayon, Decree 137 of 14 July 1993 by the head of the State of Georgia relieves (Avkopashbili) of his duty as chairman of the administration of Bolnisi Rayon. Rekhviashvili is appointed chairman of the administration.

In order to improve the existing situation in Bolnisi and Dmanisi Rayons, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia and the prosecutor's office of the Republic of Georgia are charged with providing effective assistance for the local bodies of state government in Bolnisi and Dmanisi Rayons and with carrying out appropriate measures, in particular:

1. The prosecutor's office of the Republic, Prosecutor General Tedo Ninidze, Internal Affairs Ministry, and Internal Affairs Minister Temur Khachishvili are to carry out necessary personnel replacements in the appropriate bodies of Bolnisi and Dmanisi Rayons and embark on appropriate measures to improve the crime situation. The Internal Affairs Ministry is to implement urgent measures to prevent the illegal entry of firearms into the rayons. To this end, reinforced police patrols should be deployed on entry roads and order on the roads should be restored. The progress of implementation is to be reported.

2. The Agriculture Ministry, Agriculture Minister Otar Kvetsitadze, Saknavtobi [Georgian oil firm], and Zubitashvili [not further identified] are to ensure the smooth conduct of agricultural work and the timely collection of the harvest.

3. Customs Committee Chairman Irakli Kadagishvili, in coordination with the appropriate bodies, is to restore order at the Bolnisi customs checkpoint and send one of his deputies on attachment to this checkpoint until the measures have been implemented. The progress of implementation is to be reported.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze

Tbilisi, 14 July 1993

Deadline on Ultimatum to Separatists Expires

LD1507161393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1505 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] According to the press center of the Georgian Armed Forces in Abkhazia, the ultimatum given to the Gudauta group by the Georgian Defense Ministry expired at midnight on 15 July.

According to the separatists, they do not want to concede their motherland to an aggressor and changed from attack to defense in a second. The Abkhazian side has abandoned a strategically important areas and started to regroup its forces at various areas of the front line.

For the past day, it has been relatively quiet along the Gumista River front line. Sukhumi was shelled once again, however. No casualties or damage have been observed.

Regrouping, Shelling Reported

LD1607094493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Press employees of the Georgian Defense Ministry told the CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY from Sukhumi today that all night the opposing sides were regrouping their forces along the Gumista River front and toward Shroma and Akhalsheni. There was no combat, but the enemy tried to begin artillery fire several times. The Georgian Armed Forces always resorted to appropriate measures, eliminating several of the enemy's firing points.

The Abkhaz side subjected Sukhumi to artillery shelling all the same, as a result of which residential buildings were damaged. There were no casualties.

All day yesterday and throughout the night, Georgian naval forces patrolled the coastline.

It is relatively quiet in Ochamchire Rayon.

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Protests Russian 'Interference'

LD1507124193 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The Estonian Foreign Ministry handed a protest note to the Russian Embassy today in connection with interference in Estonian domestic affairs. The note followed from yesterday's statement of support by (Igor Mikheyev), head of the Russian consular group in Narva, for the referendum in Narva, which, as is known, the Estonian justice chancellor has declared to be unconstitutional. Yesterday (Mikheyev) expressed his personal view to the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that he supports the idea of the referendum scheduled for this weekend in both Narva and Sillamae.

Negotiators View Progress of Russian Talks

LD1507163793 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Another round of Estonian-Russian talks has ended at Lohusalu. The delegation leaders, Vasiliy Svirin and Juri Luik, gave a news conference on this occasion at the Tallinn press center. Peeter Kaldre attended:

[Kaldre] As Minister Luik explained, all major working groups were working during the talks. The most serious discussions had to do with the basic agreement on the Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia [words indistinct] wording. Next week, Svirin is due to visit Tallinn again, and perhaps the text of the basic agreement will be finalized then.

No timetable or final deadline for the troop withdrawal was naturally agreed upon, but as Svirin explained later, this would not fall within the jurisdiction of the Russian delegation. Luik, however, stated that at least all Russian border guards have been withdrawn from Estonia by now. It is also essential to know that Russia will hand over to Estonia all hydrography equipment, lighthouses, and ships by 1 September.

The working group on the Paldiski Naval Base drew up several options for the removal of its nuclear reactors. The working group dealing with the compensation to Estonia for the weapons confiscated in 1940 has completed its work. It was agreed in principle that the compensation should amount to about 200 million U.S. dollars. How this amount will materialize depends both on the future and on Estonian-Russian relations.

It did seem that a lot of attention was paid to Estonian-Russian relations during the talks. At the news conference, in any case, the atmosphere became quite heated at one point, and once someone made a statement or a comment, someone else felt it necessary to put in his statement or comments. The subject was opened by Vasiliy Svirin, who found, to start with, that the tensions in Estonian- Russian relations stem from the latest Estonian laws and resolutions. [passage omitted]

He had in mind the law on local government elections, and of course the law on foreigners. This law specifically is said to have worsened the status of the Russians, which had already been discriminatory. In this connection, the Russian delegation also issued a statement today. The statement contains a complaint that tens of thousands of Russians have been turned into foreigners. This is said to bring extremely negative consequences for them. Deportation threatens them any minute now. The law violates all possible rights, humanitarian as well as international.

The Russian delegation demands that the issue of citizenship be regulated promptly and an agreement signed to this end. Svirin, incidentally, referred repeatedly to the Estonian-Russian interstate treaty of 12 January 1991, which is said to promise citizenship to non-Estonians living in Estonia. Luik's comments followed promptly:

[Begin Luik recording] Our colleagues refuse to acknowledge that the Republic of Estonia was occupied in 1939-1940, with all the legal consequences that flow from this. Naturally, these consequences should not affect the people living here in any way—in the economic and social sense—and for this reason all these guarantees have been included in the law on foreigners that the Republic of Estonia is capable of providing. Even if the term foreigner—and in the former USSR, in particular, it sounds somewhat strange—I understand that a psychological reaction to this term is very complex in Moscow, as well as for those Russian speakers living here. I emphasize once again, it is simply a term accepted in Europe for people who live in the country but are not Estonian citizens. That is the current situation. [end recording]

[Kaldre] It is difficult to bring to you all the debates and nuances that colored the news conference in a brief commentary. If, however, one follows on from what Luik said—I mean regarding noninterference in domestic affairs—then Svirin did not consider it interference in Estonian affairs to protect the Russians (?in Estonia). Many other countries are said to protect their citizens. Svirin, however, stated that Russia is in no way attempting to influence the progress of the referendum in Narva and Sillamae. He also resolutely condemns the threats by some Russian forces to send in Russian armed units—Cossacks and officers—to Narva. Moscow is said to be very busy making the Estonian-Russian border secure against this. According to Svirin, Russia wants to see Estonia as a sovereign and a united state. [passage omitted]

Svirin himself seems to be quite a sensible man. He was bold enough to state that he is not in favor of economic pressure against Estonia as planned by Moscow. It is also not positive that there exists an agreement in principle about the next, the 14th round, of the talks. This round is due to take place within the first 10 days of September in Moscow.

Arms Taken Over by Russia Worth $200 Million

WS1607120293 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0712 GMT 16 Jul 93

[From 16 July POSTIMEES, p 1]

[Text] Friday, July 16—Russia agreed to the value of armament taken over from the Estonian Army in 1940 as 200 million dollars, Minister Juri Luik announced. Estonia would expect the sum to be covered with supply of weapons while Russia would prefer to cover it within mutual accounting. The matter could be settled easily if the political situation improved, Luik stressed. He added that Russia is currently either destroying or selling cheaply weapons suitable for the Estonian Defence Forces.

Laar Returns From Israel; Economic Agreements Planned

LD1507191193 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mart Laar returned from Israel today. During a meeting with Prime Minister Rabin, Mart Laar signed a cultural, educational and scientific cooperation agreement between Estonia and Israel, the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE reports. According to Laar, agreement was reached with the leaders of Israel that at least three agreements on economic cooperation would be concluded this year, a general economic cooperation agreement that defines concessions in mutual exchange of commodities, and agreements on protection of investments and on avoiding double taxation.

The Estonian delegation also held discussions in Jerusalem with Israeli President Ezer Weizman, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the speaker of the parliament, the Defense Ministry leadership, the minister of trade and industry, and with opposition [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference on Results

WS1607115993 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0712 GMT 16 Jul 93

[From 16 July PAEVALEHT, p 1]

[Text] Friday, July 16—Premier Mart Laar, on returning from Israel said at the press-conference yesterday that most reassuring was the conviction he had obtained there that Israel was ready to support with its credits the joint projects to be planted in Estonia by the Jewish world community. It is the matter of 100 million dollar investments, to be done by international finance groups, under warranty by the State of Israel.

Estonia seems to be for Israel not only the country to channel its goods to, but also the country for developing production in, i.e. some sorts of a European Singapore, said Mr Laar. Under consideration are a number of joint projects: setting up a top-of-the-line telephone-apparatus plant, exchange of oil-shale and phosphor processing technologies and founding an enterprise of power packs and devices in Estonia. Of common interest for Estonia and Israel are the Estonian ports and phosphorites. As an exporter of fruit Israel takes great interest in the Muuga Terminal, purpose-built for reception of bananas and oranges. The storage facilities of Muuga would enable Israel to use the spot as a launching pad of export into the Baltics area, using Tallinn as a transit port. As a country possessing some oil-shale deposits Israel is interested in Estonian expertise in that area, offering in exchange up-to-date technology for producing high-quality fertilizers out of the used raw-material.

Mr Laar said this year would see the Estonian-Israeli agreements on protection of investments, elimination of double taxing and economic cooperation signed.

As to the weapons deliveries, Mr Laar had secured assurances that part of the batches of weapons would arrive ahead the schedule. Asked about the details on terms of payment he said the money would come from the national budget, but he also made reference to some stipulations of the Purchase Agreement implying that the sum was not necessarily 150 million US dollars—the Government would decide on that yet. The National Defence Commission of Riigikogu was said to know all the details and to brief the Riigikogu if the latter move should be deemed expedient.

Mr Laar expressed his firm conviction of significant boost in Estonian-Israeli cooperation in the nearest future. He said Israel understood the precariousness of the position of Estonia in the current crisis with Russia. Estonia's stance in that confrontation had improved its image in Israel considerably, Mr Laar asserted.

Israel To Speed Up Arms Deliveries

WS1607120893 Tallinn BNS in English 1130 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Tallinn, July 15, BNS—Some weapons shipments from Israel to Estonia may reach Estonia sooner than planned. The schedule of weapon deliveries was coordinated during Estonian Premier Mart Laar's recent visit to Israel.

"Some consignments will arrive in Estonia sooner at our request," Laar said in a press conference. He did not disclose when the first major deliveries are expected.

Laar said that the arms deal is covered with money from the state budget. He referred to the purchase agreement, but would not specify its provisions. The parliament's state defense commission is informed of all the details on the arms purchase, he said.

"It depends on the commission when it acquaints the parliament with the deal," he said in response to questions on details of the shipment. "The government has nothing against it."